The Marker Lamp
Volume 72 • Number 2 • June 2026
M-K-T
176
Connections Made in 2026
Plus:
Using Blunami Decoders
Basic Electronics and Wiring for the F&N
Steve Sandifer's Howard Branch
LONE STAR REGION
NMRA

The Marker Lamp

The Official Publication of
The Lone Star Region of the
National Model Railroad
Association

Volume 72, Number 2
June 2026

EDITOR
PETER KAZMIR
peter@centexnmra.org

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
GERT "SPEED" MULLER
web@lsrnmra.org

ADVERTISING
STEVE SANDIFER
steve.sandifer@sbcglobal.net

Visit the LSR's web page at:
https://lsrnmra.org

The editorial policy of The Marker Lamp, the official publication of The Lone Star Region, shall be to contribute, wherever possible, to the promotion, growth and understanding of the hobby of Model Railroading, within the confines of good taste and responsibility. The Marker Lamp is published once each quarter by and for the members of The Lone Star Region of The National Model Railroad Association. Articles appearing in The Marker Lamp are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position or policies of the officers or membership of The Lone Star Region or The National Model Railroad Association.

Address all correspondence, news, photos and drawings to the editor. All material will be gladly accepted and will be used depending on the availability of space and suitability of material. None will be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided. Correspondence relating to advertising should be addressed to Steve Sandifer at steve.sandifer@sbcglobal.net.

Cover photos are from Steve Nelson's HO scale MKT Sedalia Division featured at Connections 2026.
(Photos by Steve Nelson)

Submission Deadlines and Advertising Closing Dates

Spring Issue	February 15
Summer Issue	May 15
Fall Issue	August 15
Winter Issue	November 15

Materials received after the deadline may be held for the next issue.

Publication Date:
Approx. 30 days after deadline

Lone Star Region Call Board

Officers

President
Bob Barnett, MMR
281-615-9683
rbarnettmopac@gmail.com

Vice-President
Marc LaChey, MMR
214-507-7779
bu1977@att.net

Board Advisor (Past President)
Donna Orr
972-342-8598
donnalorrtx@gmail.com

Secretary
Eric Smith
817-233-5980
eric@scalerrmodels.com

Treasurer
Steve Sandifer, MMR
713-376-0684
steve.sandifer@sbcglobal.net

Division Directors

Cowcatcher Division 1
Dick Brannan
817-528-1546
director@cowcatcherdivision.org

Bayou Division 2
Matthew Lacrouts
985-662-8116
lsrdivision2director@gmail.com

Trinity River Division 3
Jeff Rykel
214-608-7325
jeff_rykiel@yahoo.com

Cen-Tex Division 4
Doug Taylor
512-796-5267
director@centexnmra.org

West Texas Division 5
Galen Van Allen
325-370-4307
galenvanallen@gmail.com

South Texas Division 6
Roy Kaiser
512-787-8575
fr8train@gvtc.com

North Louisiana Division 7
Currently Open

Texas Gulf Division 8
Kelly Russell, MMR
281-770-3770
krussl@yahoo.com

At-Large Directors

Director-at-Large
Deborah Gifford
817-805-7067
gifforddeborah5@gmail.com

Director-at-Large
Steve Crise
310-963-9265
scrisephoto@gmail.com

Director-at-Large
Don Winn, MMR
940-391-0950
donswinn@gmail.com

Department Chairs

Achievement Chair
Duane Richardson, MMR
972-824-6630
pinecreekstation@verizon.net

Brand Coordinator
Jeff Palmer, MMR
214-693-7052
res06wqv@gte.net

Contest Chair
Ray Byer
713-472-4599
raybyer@yahoo.com

Contest Associate Chair
Jeff Palmer, MMR
214-693-7052
res06wqv@gte.net

Convention Chair
Joe Leising
817-312-6615
joe@leising.com

Education Chair
Robert Mangrum, MMR
325-643-1219
1txsouthrr@gmail.com

Elections Chair
Deborah Gifford
817-805-7067
gifforddeborah@gmail.com

Events Chair
Bill Dryden
469-964-8571
bdr149@airmail.net

Historian
Bob Barnett, MMR
281-615-9683
rbarnettmopac@gmail.com

***Marker Lamp* Editor**
Peter Kazmir
512-653-3824
peter@kazmir.net

Membership Chair
Jared Roberts
940-765-1836
jlroberts0418@gmail.com

Non-Rail Chair
Divina Gato-Hogno
832-859-2440
d.gatohogno@gmail.com

Parliamentarian
Ray Byer
713-472-4599
raybyer@yahoo.com

Photographer
Steve Crise
310-963-9265
scrisephoto@gmail.com

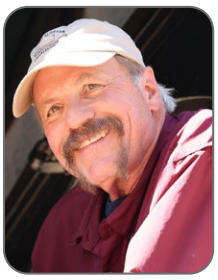
Publications Chair
Kevin Reynolds
903-851-2764
krey@yahoo.com

Publicity Chair
Riley Triggs
512-636-3521
rileytriggs@gmail.com

Web Chair
Gert "Speed" Muller
469-345-0022
web@lsrnmra.org

Youth Chair
Don Winn, MMR
940-391-0950
donswinn@gmail.com

President's Corner



Well Done in Austin

by Bob Barnett, MMR
rbarnettmopac@gmail.com

I am writing this soon after getting back home from the 2026 *Connections* Convention in Austin and a fine convention it was. Doug Taylor, all his chairs and helpers deserve a big "Thank You" from the Lone Star Region for a job well done. I do have a couple of regrets (actually three) concerning the convention:

1. I did not get to attend EVERY clinic.
2. I did not get to visit EVERY layout open for tours.
3. I could not operate at EVERY layout the held sessions.

...but each one I *was* able to view or visit was excellent.

By now you have probably heard some stories that the convention hotel ran out of hot water for many of the rooms and could not get the boiler repaired quickly. This reveals a dilemma the LSR and our convention chairs face each year. The LSR Convention thrives on slightly over the hill convention hotels.

Yes we could book the convention at the finest convention hotel in downtown Austin, Houston, Dallas, etc. for $250 to $300 per room-night. For a comparatively small convention we need an exorbitant number of meeting rooms, typically 5 or 6. Many of the older facilities have the room space available and are used heavily during the week for business and training meetings. So we meet their needs by filling the hotel over much of the weekend when their business in light and they meet our needs by providing lots of meeting space, at a reasonable cost. But inevitably there can be some bumps in the road with an older hotel.

There will be some discussion at the LSR Board regarding this issue so please let your Division Director and/or any of the LSR officers know your preferences and opinions.

It will not do the convention any good if we hold the meeting at a more upscale location, and very few show up. Conversely, we do not want members inconvenienced by operations glitches at the hotel. So, please let us know your thoughts.

Till next time,
Bob **ML**

From the Editor

Thank You

by Peter Kazmir
peter@kazmir.net

This is my last issue as the editor and publisher of *The Marker Lamp*. I'm proud of the output for the last four years; building on the work of those who came before me, I think *The Marker Lamp* is a quality publication that serves the Lone Star Region well and will continue to do so under future editor and publisher Kevin Reynolds.

There are many, many people I would like to thank for helping make my run a success:

- Donna Orr, for asking me to do this in the first place
- Riley Triggs, for setting me up for success
- Most notably, the many authors who have contributed outstanding content, especially Don Winn who started me off with a fantastic article and Cliff Scherer who has consistently submitted his outstanding column.

I'm also very happy with how the mild redesign turned out. I was focused on making *The Marker Lamp* easier to publish, more consistent, and especially more accessible and easier to read. I think all of those goals were accomplished, and I hope I'm also setting up Kevin for success as Riley did before me.

Help Kevin out - submit some great content to get him started!

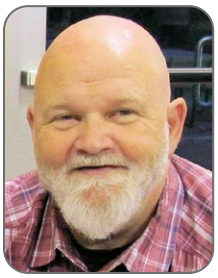
•

I wasn't able to attend the banquet at the 2026 Convention in Austin due to a scheduling conflict. That's why I only found out afterwards that I was awarded the 2026 Freitag Award by the San Jacinto Model Railroad Club. It seems almost impossible to me that I am associated with anything that has Gil's name on it, but I would like to say thank you so much for the honor. I hope I've done some small part to help make the hobby better.

•

Best of luck to Kevin, Eric, and all our new LSR leaders.

And remember to keep the fun in Model Railroading! **ML**



Events Calendar

by Bill Dryden
bdr149@airmail.net

Check out the Events Calendar now on the LSR website https://lsrnmra.org!

Here are upcoming events within the LSR of which I am aware. I will provide all the information YOU send me or I can glean from other publications, websites, etc., for these events. Additional information may be available through the *NMRA Magazine* and/or other magazines or websites. Also, note that all show times and dates are as I have found them; all are at the discretion of the sponsoring organization and are subject to change. Please forward any and all information about upcoming events or activities in your area, club, etc., to me, via e-mail at bdr149@airmail.net.

2027 Lone Star Region NMRA Convention

June 17-19, 2027

Watch *The Marker Lamp*, the LSR Website and your email inbox for more information as we get closer.

Save the Date!

Events and Shows

August

29-30 - Austin, Texas
53rd Austin Train Show, sponsored by the Austin Model Railway Society. Saturday 10 am - 5 pm, Sunday 10 am - 4 pm. Adults $9 in advance, $10 at the door (children 12 and under free) - admission good both days. $1 discount for military and first responders. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Road, Austin, TX. More information: https://austintrainshow.org/

September

5-6 - Weatherford, Texas
Clark Gardens Model Train Show. Saturday 8 am - 5 pm, Sunday 10 am - 4 pm. Adults $10, seniors $8, children 4-12 $5, children 3 and under Free, Clark Gardens Members Free. Clark Gardens, 567 Maddux Road, Weatherford, TX. For more information: info@clarkgardens.org, https://clarkgardens.org/event/model-train-show/, or 940-682-4856.

12 - McKinney, Texas (Dallas)
Dallas Area Lone Star Division Meet, sponsored by the Lone Star Division of the TCA. Saturday 10 am - 4 pm. Collin College - McKinney Campus Conference Center, McKinney, TX. More information: https://www.tca-northtexaschapter.org/sr/McKinney%20digital%20Flyer%202026.jpg

19 - Seabrook, Texas (Houston)
TCA Gulf Coast Chapter Fall Toy Train Show, sponsored by the Gulf Coast Chapter of the TCA. Saturday 10 am - 3 pm. Admission $10.00 per person age 12 or older, family $13.00 general admission (under 12 free, but must be accompanied by an adult). Bay Area Community Center, 5002 East NASA Parkway Seabrook, TX. More information: Mark Heavener, 281-728-8585, gulfcoasttca@gmail.com or Steve Tripp, 281-734-3794, stripp7139@aol.com

19-20 - Temple, Texas
44th Annual Temple Model Train & RPM Show, sponsored by the Central Texas Area Model Railroaders (CentraMOD). Saturday 10 am - 5 pm, Sunday 10 am - 4 pm. Adults $10, $1 discount for seniors, military and first responders with ID, kids 12 and under free. Frank Mayborn Center, 3303 N. 3rd Street, Temple, TX. More information: http://centramodrr.com/train-show/

26-27 - Plano, Texas (Dallas)
Fall Plano Train Show, sponsored by the North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs. Saturday 10 am - 5 pm, Sunday 10 am - 4 pm. Adults $11, children 12 and under Free (w/ adult). Plano Event Center, 2000 E Spring Creek Parkway, Plano, TX. More information: https://www.dfwtrainshows.com/

October

3 - Texas City, Texas (Galveston)
Texas City Train Show, sponsored by the Galveston County Model Railroad Club. Saturday 10 am - 4 pm. Adults

$7, seniors (60+) $5, college student or military with ID, $5, student (7-17) $4, children 6 and under free. Admission to the Galveston County Model RR Club exhibit is included with museum entry. Texas City Museum, 409 6th Street, Texas City, TX. More information: https://www.tourtexas.com/attractions/texas-city-museum-prices-and-hours

24-25 - New Braunfels, Texas
New Braunfels Model Railroad Jamboree, sponsored by the New Braunfels Railroad Museum. Saturday, 10 am - 5 pm, Sunday 10 am - 4 pm. Adults $10 (13 & older), active-duty military $8 (with ID), child $5 (5-12 years old). New Braunfels Civic Center, 375 South Castell Avenue, New Braunfels, TX. More information: 830-627-2447 or http://newbraunfelsrailroadmuseum.org/nbrr/train-shows/

November

14-15 - Pearland, Texas (Houston)
Houston Area Model Train Show. Saturday 10 am - 5 pm, Sunday 10 am - 4 pm. Admission $8, age 17 and under Free. Knights of Columbus Hall, 2320 Hatfield Road, Pearland, TX. More information: https://houstonttrak.org/

28 - Metairie, Louisiana (New Orleans)
Celebrate Christmas on the Crescent Lines, sponsored by Crescent City Model Railroad Club. Saturday 12 noon -6 pm. Adults $5, children $1. 601 N. Lester Avenue, Metairie, LA. More information: 504-737-3723 or https://ccmrc.com.

December

5-6 - Grapevine, Texas (Fort Worth)
Train-A-Palooza, sponsored by the Lone Star Hi-Railers Model Railroad Association. Saturday 10 am - 5 pm, Sunday 10 am - 3 pm. Admission $10 (both days). Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 S. Main, Grapevine, TX. More information: https://lonestarhirailers.com/train-a-palooza-tm

12-13, 19-20 - Metairie, Louisiana (New Orleans)
Celebrate Christmas on the Crescent Lines, sponsored by Crescent City Model Railroad Club. Saturday 12 noon -6 pm, Sunday 10 am - 4 pm. Adults $5, children $1. 601 N. Lester Avenue, Metairie, LA. More information: 504-737-3723 or https://ccmrc.com.

January 2027

2 - Metairie, Louisiana (New Orleans)
Celebrate Christmas on the Crescent Lines, sponsored by Crescent City Model Railroad Club. Saturday 12 noon -6 pm. Adults $5, children $1. 601 N. Lester Avenue, Metairie, LA. More information: 504-737-3723 or https://ccmrc.com.

16-17 - Plano, Texas (Dallas)
Dallas Area Train Show, sponsored by the North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs. Saturday 10 am - 5 pm, Sunday 10 am - 4 pm. Adults $11, children 12 and under Free (w/ adult). Plano Event Center, 2000 E Spring Creek Parkway, Plano, TX. More information: https://www.dfwtrainshows.com/

February 2027

13 - Rosenberg, Texas (Houston)
Greater Houston Train Show. Due to construction at our usual location of the Pasadena Convention Center, the 2027 Show will be in Rosenberg, Texas. Please check back as the date approaches for more information – https://sanjacmodeltrains.org/GHTS.php/

Recurring Events and Meetings

LSR Cowcatcher Division 1 - Fort Worth, TX
The Cowcatcher Division meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month at the Texas Western Model Railroad Club, 6808 Forest Hills Drive, Forest Hills, TX. You can attend in person or via Zoom. For more information regarding the Cowcatcher Division or its programs, check their website: https://www.cowcatcherdivision.org.

LSR Bayou Division 2 - Baton Rouge/New Orleans, LA
The Bayou Division meets quarterly at different locations. For information on future meetings contact Matthew Lacrouts at lsrdivision2director@gmail.com.

LSR Trinity Division 3 - Allen, TX
The Trinity River Division meets at 10:00 am on the 3rd Saturday of every month at the Christ Servant Lutheran Church, Allen Texas. Occasionally things change due to scheduling conflicts so pay close attention to the email meeting notices that go out a week before the meeting. If you would like to be added to the email list contact Robert Secrest at Robert.Secrest@hotmail.com.

LSR Cen-Tex Division 4 - Austin, TX
The Cen-Tex Division meets bi-monthly at the Austin Northwest Recreational Center, 2913 Northland Drive, Austin, TX. Meetings are held at 10:00 am on the 2nd Saturday of the odd months and include clinics, show-and-tell, DCC minute, social activities and a layout open house. For more information about upcoming meetings, see https://centexnmra.org or contact director@centexnmra.org to be added to the mail list.

LSR West Texas Division 5
Division 5 holds their meetings virtually on Zoom on the 3rd Monday of each month starting at 7:00 pm. Anyone that can join via Zoom is welcome to attend. Use this link to sign up for the division's monthly bulletin and keep up with events and happenings in the division: http://eepurl.com/hRLLm9 or email galenvanallen@gmail.com.

LSR South Texas Division 6 - San Antonio, TX
The South Texas Division meets bi-monthly at the Longhorn Cafe at 12311 Nacogdoches Road in San Antonio. Meetings are held at 11:00

am on the 2nd Saturday of even months. Please come out and join us for clinics, show-and-tell, tip and tricks, and the ever-popular Deal-or-Duds, along with great fellowship and often a visit to a local home layout. For more information contact Roy Kaiser, Division Director, at fr8train@gvtc.com.

LSR Texas Gulf Division 8 - Houston, TX
The Texas Gulf Division meets in conjunction with the San Jacinto Model Railroad Club on the 1st Tuesday of each month at the Southwest Central Church of Christ, 4011 W. Bellfort Avenue, Houston, TX. The meeting starts promptly at 7 pm. We will have a clinic and a business meeting. Refreshments will be served. For more information contact Phil Stewart at pstewart1225@yahoo.com.

•

Alamo Model Railroad Engineers - San Antonio, TX
The Alamo Model Railroad Engineers meets the 2nd Friday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Zucht Building at the Texas Transportation Museum, 11791 Wetmore Rd., San Antonio TX. For more information call (210) 490-3554 (weekends 9:00 am to 4:00 pm; voicemail only M-F) or visit the website at https://www.txtransportationmuseum.org/ho-scale-indoor-model-railroad.

All Points Model Railroad Association - Conroe, TX
The All Points North Model Railroad Association is open to new members and has business meetings in their clubhouse on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 10:30 am. For more information, including a calendar of activities, please visit their website at http://apnmrr.org/.

Austin Model Railway Society - Austin, TX
The Austin Model Railway Society is a HO scale modular group that is open to new members and meets once a month. For more information please email Steve Jackobs at president@austinrailway.org or visit the web site www.austinrailway.org.

The Greater Baton Rouge Model Railroaders - Jackson, LA
Our mission: to educate and inform the public on the hobby of model railroading, associated disciplines, and to entertain both children and adults through our numerous displays featuring both model trains, real railroads and railroad safety. The Trains run from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of every month! THE PUBLIC IS INVITED! Located at the Republic of West Florida Historical Museum, 3406 College St, Jackson, LA. More information: http://www.greaterbrrailroaders.com/.

Houston Area "G" Gaugers - Rosenberg, TX
The Houston Area "G" Gaugers (HAGG) model train club meets at the Rosenberg Railroad Museum on the 4th Sunday of each month to run their special trains on the tracks of the Garden Railroad Exhibit. The museum also hosts fun seasonal activities for the kids on this day. Steam engines, circus trains, patriotic trains or everyone's favorite Thomas? You never know what trains you'll see. Rosenberg Railroad Museum, 1921 Avenue F, Rosenberg, TX. More information: info@RosenbergRRMuseum.org.

Houston Area Live Steamers - Hockley, TX
HALS has over 9,000 feet of track for you to enjoy and ride on most any Saturday of the year. Someone is usually there every Saturday with special run, operations, waybills/timetable, work and fun run days scheduled throughout the year. Our public run days are the 3rd Saturday of the month March through November. Come see our 2,500 foot expansion in Phase 4. Model Railroaders (any scale) are welcome to attend most any time. Check our web site out at www.hals.org for schedule of events or e-mail Rick White at rick.white.jr@gmail.com for more information.

New Braunfels Railroad Museum - New Braunfels, TX
Kids Fun Day is held on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the New Braunfels Railroad Museum, 302 South San Antonio Street (in the 1907 Restored Railroad Depot), New Braunfels, TX. Museum phone (830) 627-2447. Kids of all ages will have the opportunity to run model trains and become a Jr. Engineer. Also among the displays at the Kids Fun Day will be a large US Army Model Garden (G) scale and Lego Trains. Visit our Steam Engine, Caboose, Dining Car (available for Birthday Parties) and Box Car. There will be other fun, train related activities and additional model trains, train artifacts, are on display our 1907 depot. The Railroad Museum opens at 10:00 am on Saturdays. For field trip scheduling and more information, call Susan Riordon (210) 542-6121, or visit us at www.nbrrm.org.

North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs – Irving, TX
The North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs (NTC) meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Visit the website www.dfwtrainshows.com for more information about the NTC, its meeting site, member clubs or sponsored events.

San Antonio Model Railroad Association - San Antonio, TX
The San Antonio Model Railroad Association, SAMRA, is open to new members and meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 7:30 pm in the Bob Clarke Rail Heritage Museum, 7702 Narrow Pass, Live Oak, TX. Please visit our website www.samratx.org for information about our activities and their dates and times. Also, like us on Facebook.

San Jacinto Model Railroad Club - Houston, TX
The San Jacinto Model Railroad Club meets in conjunction with the Texas Gulf Division on the 1st Tuesday of each month at the Southwest Central Church of Christ, 4011 W. Bellfort Avenue, Houston, TX. The meeting starts promptly at 7 pm. We will have a clinic and a business meeting. Refreshments will be served. For more information contact Phil Stewart at pstewart1225@yahoo.com.

Texas Northern Model Railroad Club – Dallas, TX (North)
The Texas Northern Model Railroad Club business meeting is the 1st Thursday of the month and has regular meetings on Thursday evenings and most Saturdays. If you like to operate, come by on Tuesday nights to join our weekly operation session. Located in North Dallas at 11999 Plano Road., Suite 154, Dallas, TX 75243. For more information: www.texasnorthern.org.

Texas Western Model Railroad Club – Forest Hills, TX
The Texas Western Model Railroad Club meets for its business meeting every 1st Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm. The Club is located at 6808 Forest Hills Drive, Forest Hills, TX. For more information: (682) 587-2092 or www.twmrc.org or email cdo@twmc.org.

Excursion Train Trips

Austin Steam Train; Cedar Park, TX; (512) 477-8468; www.austinsteamtrain.org

Grapevine Vintage Railroad; Grapevine, TX; (817) 410-3185; www.gvrr.com

Old Hickory Railroad; Jackson, LA; (225) 634-7397; www.louisianasteamtrain.com

Texas State Railroad; Palestine & Rusk, TX; (888) 987-2461; www.texasstaterr.com

Future LSR Convention Updates

2028 - South Texas Division 6 (San Antonio Area)
Don Winn and Roy Kaiser report they are in the process of securing a location.

•

Please consider our deadlines for submittals and publications to allow adequate lead time to correctly announce your event. Column submission deadlines are the 15th of February, May, August, and November. Publication of the Marker Lamp is the following month. **ML**

Whose Track Goes Here?

Can you figure out whose layout this photo is from?

If you're the first person to email the correct answer to rrrduino@huntatrophy.com you'll win a campfire lighting Arduino!

The photo in the March issue was of Lloyd Keyser's C&NW.

Join us for the **NMRA National Convention 2027**! Expand Your Horizon with model railroad insights, world class layouts, op sessions, keynotes, panel discussions, tutorials, clinics, prototype tours, contests, modular layouts and camaraderie with fellow enthusiasts from around the world. Whether you're a seasoned modeler or just starting out, there's something for you!

In addition to the convention, the National Train Show will be held August 14th & 15th at the Tacoma Convention Center. There will be several hundred booths featuring vendors and manufacturers announcing new products, hands on demonstrations, and dozens of train layouts.

To register, sign up for our newsletter, and more, visit our website at **https://2027.nmra.org/**

Connections Made In Austin

by Peter Kazmir, Convention Publicity Chair
Photos by Lou Adler, John Amos, Chris Chany, Steve Crise, and Divina Gato-Hogno

This year's LSR Convention, *Connections*, was held June 18-21, 2026, in Austin, Texas. The convention was by all measures a success. Aside from one issue with the hotel, guests reported that they had a great time. Some highlights include:

- Special guests Cinthia Priest, Stephen Priest, and Bruce Blalock each presented great clinics, and Bruce's banquet talk was a hit.
- 48 clinics were presented in total, by 28 clinicians, including two make-and-take clinics that were well attended.
- Speaking of attendance, 201 guests from 7 of the 8 LSR divisions (and a few other regions) registered to attend for at least part of the event, which is the highest attendance outside of Dallas in several years. We even signed up 4 new NMRA members!
- The contest room had many great entries (as you'll see on the following pages).
- The silent auction was back for the first time in years, and everyone brought what they had saved up all that time - there were over $3,600 in sales.
- All of the tours and operating sessions were popular, as were the Austin Model Railroad Society, Cen-Tex Division South Plains, and area T-TRAK layouts that were operating at the hotel.

On the following pages, you'll find photos from the convention, including contest winners.

The convention committee hopes everyone had a great time, and the LSR hopes to see everyone in 2027 in Dallas! **ML**

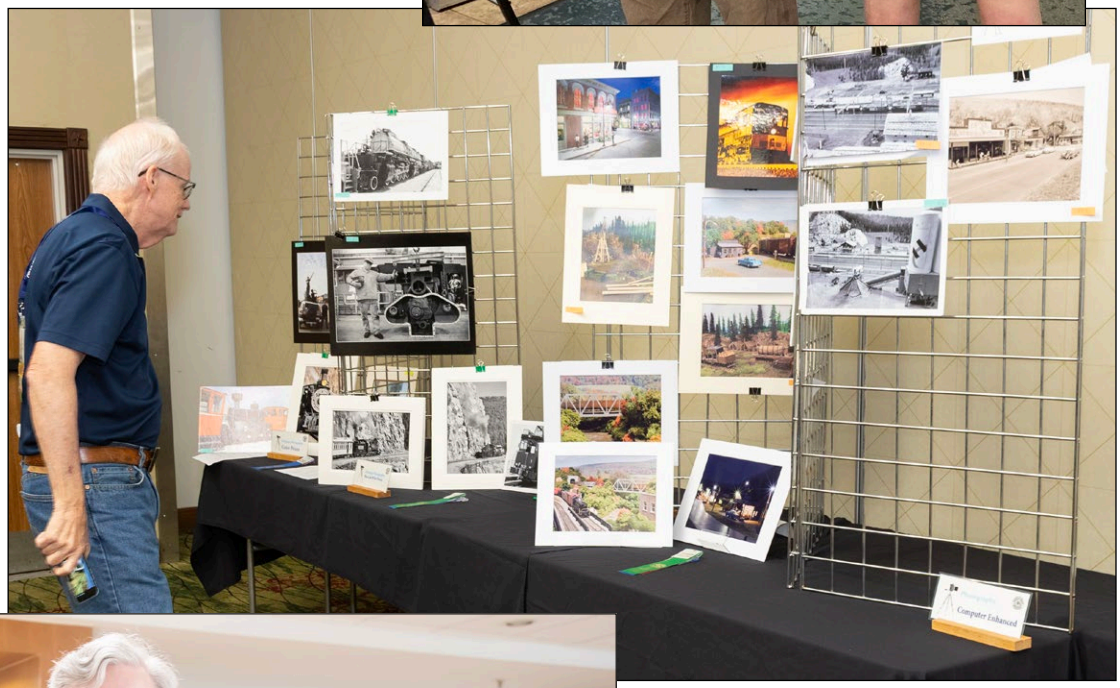
nmra.org
National Model Railroad Association®
Cen-Tex Division
centexnmra.org
We make it more fun!

David Sands
Southern Pacific
2026 Steve Crise

WYNDHAM
AUSTIN
WOODWARD CONFERENCE CENTER
2026 Steve Crise

Order up!
A Gondola please. . .
SOUTHERN
with a side of Waffles
Cinthia Priest
2026 Steve Crise

Welcome
BLANCO
CONNECTIONS
Thanks to our Sponsors
Discount Model Trains
TRAINZ



Deborah Gifford
Joe Lessing

NMRA NATIONAL
John Larson

2026 Steve Case

2026 Steve Crise

Wyndham Garden Hotel
Craig Stoops
MKT
MMR

EXECUTIVE LEARNING CENTER
Food & Beverages
MENU
2026 Steve Crise

Contest Judging

Banquet speaker Bruce Blalock

Three of the 2026 Youth Award winners, Eli Beams (Div 4), Joshua Luebeck (Div 8), and Cameron Pantke (Div 1).

Other winners this year included Charles Harrington (Div 2), Sam Quintanilla (Div 3), and Isaac Sarkar (Div 6).

Congratulations!

Russell Gifford won the Gil Freitag Award for Best Scratchbuilt Model...

...and also the inaugural Loren Neufeld Square Footer Award (tied w/Chuck Lind)

Bob Barnett presents the President's Award for Service to the LSR to Duane Richardson

DUANE RICHARDSON, MMR
IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP, INSPIRATION, ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE LONE STAR REGION NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION
JUNE 20, 2026
MMR

C. Randall Wilson is Master Model Railroader #824

Contest Report

by Ray Byer & Jeff Palmer, MMR, LSR Contest Co-Chairs

Congratulations to everyone who entered the contest. This year there were 32 entries in the Model Contest, 6 in Arts & Crafts, and 48(!) in Photography, for a total of 86 entries.

Eight entries merited, but more would have with better documentation.

As you can see we had anther low turnout in the contest room this year. But all were highly done with good details. We would like to give a big thank you to all the people who worked in the contest room for the three days it was open. And to all the judges who came in to help, this contest would not work without you, thank you for your help.

We hope you are already working on entries for the contest at the North Texas Express 2027! We can't wait to see them! ML

Model Contest Winners

Steam Locomotives
1. Don Winn, MMR ..... 100th Anniversary Locomotive

Diesel Locomotives
No Entries

Traction & Other Motive Power
1. Don Winn, MMR ..... AE&FRE 306 Interurban

Passenger Cars
1. Russell Gifford ..... D&RGW Alamosa Parlor Car

Freight Cars
1. Russell Gifford ..... FW&D Coal Gondola
2. Michael Strittmatter .. Astrogirl Auto Carrier

Maintenance of Way
1. Russell Gifford ..... RGS #2 Plow Flanger
2. Russell Gifford ..... R&D Civil Engineering Car
3. Don Winn, MMR ..... NALX Weed Sprayer Car

Cabooses
1. Don Winn, MMR ..... CB&Q NE-10 Way Car
2. Russell Gifford ..... D&RGW Long Caboose

On-Line Structures
1. Rod Fredericks ..... Zenith Freight Forwarder
2. Brian Block, MMR ..... Machine Shop
3. Don Winn, MMR ..... Richards-Wilcox Factory

Off-Line Structures
1. Jeff Palmer, MMR ..... Drug Store
2. Wayne Jones ..... Longsworth General Store
3. Jeff Palmer, MMR ..... Barber Shop

Bridges & Trestles
No Entries

Display / Modules
1. Gerald Mabry ..... Aziz's Garage
2. Chuck Lind, MMR ..... T. Glass Gold Storage
3. Russell Gifford ..... Rock City Barn

Photography Contest Winners

Prototype B&W Prints
1. Marc LaChey, MMR .... RGS Engine #20
2. Marc LaChey, MMR .... RGS Engine #20 on the High Line
3. Brian Watts ..... "Rusted"

Prototype Color Prints
1. Duane Richardson ..... 315 Out of Chama
2. Marc LaChey, MMR .... RGS Engine #20 North to Silverton
3. Geoff Hogno ..... Big Boy #4014

Model B&W Prints
1. Wayne Jones ..... "Down the Old Main Drag"
2. Geoff Hogno ..... Lumberyard at the Miniature Wonderland
3. Geoff Hogno ..... European Gravel Pit at the Miniature Wonderland

Model Color Prints
1. Wayne Jones ..... "Cross Roads"
2. Wayne Jones ..... "Hangin' Out at Lynn's"
3. Geoff Hogno ..... "Black Bear and Bayou Main Street"

Photography - Computer Enhanced
1. Brian Watts ..... "Glory"

Best in Show
Marc LaChey, MMR ..... RGS Engine #20

Arts & Crafts Contest Winners

Arts & Crafts General
1. Melissa Stephens.....Padded Fabric Picture Frame
2. Divina Gato-Hogno ...Thanksgiving Wreath

Arts & Crafts Railroadiana
1. Yoko Mazza..... "Switching"
2. Helen Beggane..... "Capital Limited Leaving"

Arts & Crafts Needlework
No Entries

Arts & Crafts Theme ("Connections")
1. Deborah Gifford..... "Connecting to the Past"

Most Popular
Yoko Mazza ..... "Switching"

Novice Best in Show
Yoko Mazza ..... "Switching"

Best in Show
Yoko Mazza ..... "Switching"

Special Awards

Loren Neufeld Square Footer Award (Tie)
Russell Gifford .....Rock City Barn
Chuck Lind, MMR.....T. Glass Cold Storage

Gil Freitag Award for Best Scratch-Built Model
Russell Gifford .....D&RGW Alamosa Parlor Car

Best Kit-Built Award
Chuck Lind, MMR.....T. Glass Cold Storage

James P. Baugh Architecture Award
No Qualifying Entries

James P. Baugh Memorial Tree Award
Russell Gifford .....Rock City Barn

Bob Clarke Logging Award
No Qualifying Entries

Most Popular Complete Train
Don Winn, MMR .....Austin Steam Train

Linda S. Little Award
No Qualifying Entries

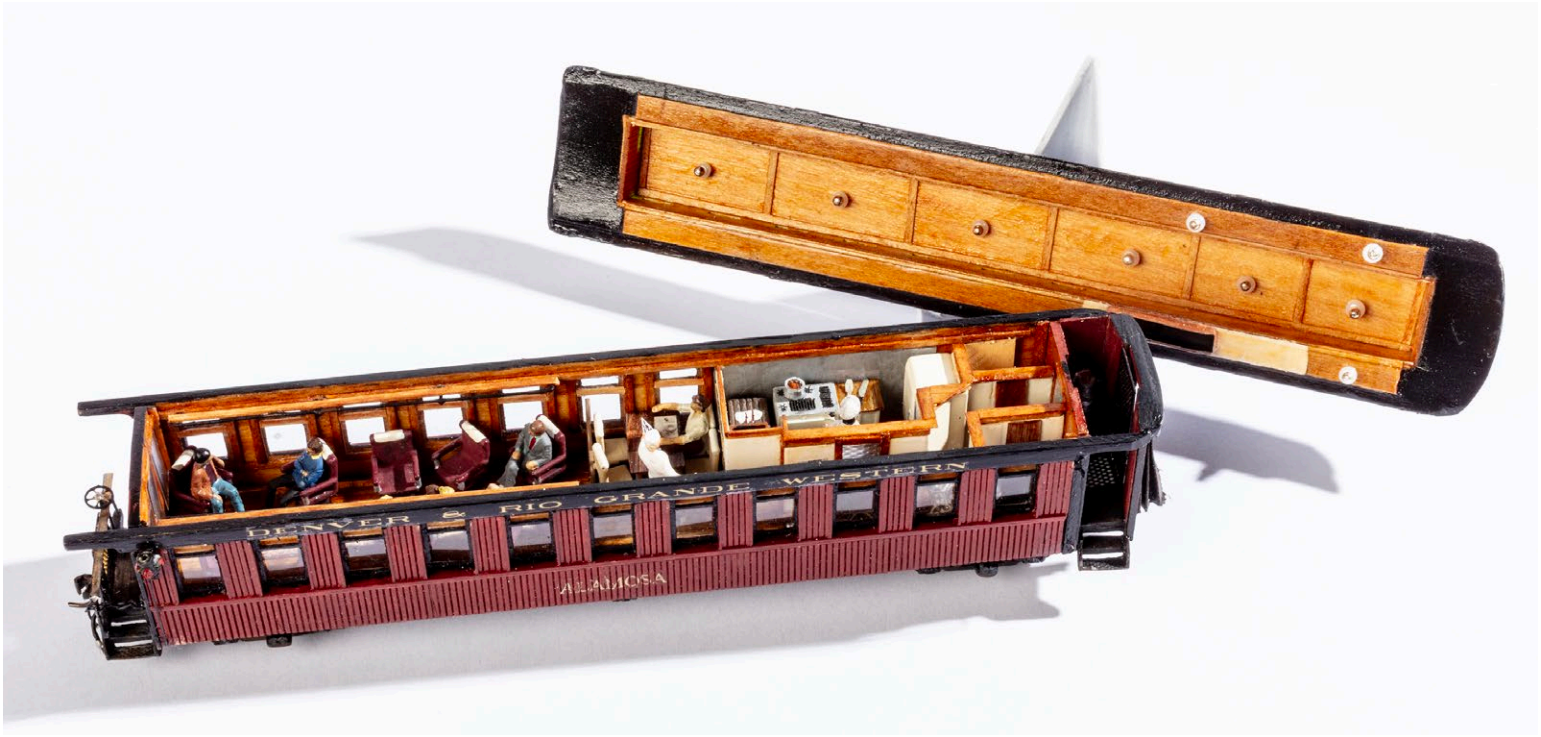
Youth & Teen Awards
No Entries

Participation Award
Russell Gifford: 3 entries, 316 points

Most Popular
Brian Block, MMR .....Machine Shop

Novice Best in Show
No Qualifying Entry

Best in Show
Russell Gifford .....D&RGW Alamosa Parlor Car



First Place, Passenger Cars, Gil Freitag Award, and Best in Show | Russell Gifford - D&RGW Alamosa Parlor Car

First Place, Prototype B&W Photography and Photography Best in Show | Marc LaChey, MMR
RGS Engine #20

All contest winner pictures are on the LSR website: lsrnmra.org

Second Place, Display/Module, Loren Neufeld Square Footer Award (tie), and Best Kit-Built Award
Chuck Lind, MMR - T. Glass Cold Storage

Third Place, Display/Modules, Loren Neufeld Square Footer Award (tie), and James P. Baugh Memorial Tree Award
Russell Gifford - Rock City Barn

Second Place, Off-Line Structures, and Most Popular Model | Brian Block, MMR - Machine Shop

Most Popular Complete Train | Don Winn, MMR - Austin Steam Train

First Place, Arts & Crafts Railroadiana, Most Popular Arts & Crafts, Novice Best in Show Arts & Crafts, and Best in Show Arts & Crafts
Yoko Mazza - "Switching"

First Place, Model Color Photography | Wayne Jones - Crossroads

First Place, Steam Locomotives | Don Winn, MMR - 100th Anniversary Locomotive

A Full House for the Non-Rail Program

by Divina Gato-Hogno, LSR Non-Rail Chair

This year's Lone Star Region Convention offered plenty for the non-rail attendees, with a program packed with crafting, sightseeing, and socializing.

Thursday evening kicked things off with a Meet and Greet — cookies, refreshments, and a chance for fellow non-rail participants to get acquainted — followed by an easy costume jewelry project to get everyone's creative hands moving.

Friday morning brought a self-drive tour of Austin, with several options to choose from - Texas State Capitol, a Lake Austin boat cruise, or a stop at the Austin Museum of Illusions. Many non-rail attendees decided to stay at the hotel to work on their costume jewelry and seasonal wreaths.

Friday evening was a definite highlight of the weekend: Bingo Night. This wasn't just a non-rail event — both rail and non-rail attendees turned out for a lively evening of Bingo, and the room was full to capacity. It was a great chance for the two groups to mix and enjoy the convention together.

Saturday morning rounded out the program with more crafting — continuing the costume jewelry projects from Thursday, plus a seasonal wire wreath made with deco mesh.

All in all, a well-rounded non-rail program that gave attendees plenty to do — and Bingo Night proved that some of the best moments of the convention happen when rail and non-rail crowds come together. **ML**

2026 Steve Crise

2026 Steve Crise

It's on its way....

Save the date

June 16-19, 2027

The Blunami Decoder

A Revolutionary Decoder from Soundtraxx

by David Paul

Soundtraxx announced the Blunami decoder in early 2023. The concept is straightforward. Listed below are the most important things to understand about the Blunami decoder:

1. The Blunami decoder has the same functionality as the Soundtraxx Tsunami 2 decoder.
2. The Blunami decoder has a Bluetooth interface to allow direct control of the decoder from an Apple or Android based app on a cell phone, tablet or any Apple or Android device that has a Bluetooth interface.
3. The Blunami power source can be straight DC or output from a DCC command station.

Put all those things together and what you have is a decoder that has full DCC functionality but does not require a DCC command station to operate!

The Blunami is named by joining the words "Bluetooth" and "Tsunami", since it is an integration of a Bluetooth interface to a Tsunami 2 decoder.

Soundtraxx staff attended the August 2023 NMRA National Show in Grapevine Texas, and on Wednesday night that week, they announced that the Blunami decoder was ready for distribution and dealers would have it for sale at the National Train Show that started Friday at 10:00 am. I was in line at the door to the train show on Friday at 10:00 am and by 10:05, I had purchased my first 2 Blunami decoders.

The first Blunami decoders were in the PNP format (Plug-N-Play), so their footprint matched other Soundtraxx OEM decoders found in various brands of HO locomotives manufactured with DCC and sound and locomotives that are DCC ready and have "dummy" circuit boards. A Blunami decoder can easily replace the stock decoder/circuit board in such locomotives. The pin configuration in a Blunami is exactly the same as the pin configuration for an Econami or Tsunami 2, so upgrade just requires pulling out the stock decoder and soldering in the Blunami.

In 2024, Soundtraxx announced the Blunami was available in a 21-pin format. That made installation even easier. All you had to do was open the locomotive, pull out the stock 21 pin decoder or DC dummy plug, and install the Blunami in its place. Of course, if the locomotive is "DCC Ready", you must also install a speaker if you want sound. However, I have found that several manufacturers "DCC Ready" products already have speakers in them and all you have to do is plug in the decoder. I suppose it is cheaper for the manufacturers to make all locomotives the same and not worry about the extra cost of a speaker in a non-DCC locomotive.

I have installed Blunami decoders in four locomotives in my collection and five in the locomotives running on the HO layouts at the Rosenberg Railroad Museum (more on that at the end of this article). Two of my locomotives have the PNP Blunami and two others are the 21-pin.

I bought the locomotives with the 21-pin socket specifically for that purpose. The locomotives are Walthers Proto DCC ready at nearly 50% off MSRP. Even with the Blunami and the speaker I had to install, the total cost was less than the same locomotive with sound and DCC.

What is all the fuss over the Blunami about? The initial excitement was about running a DCC locomotive on DC track. All DCC functionality found in a Tsunami 2 decoder would be available on a locomotive on a DC layout. However, as I got to learn more about the Blunami, a bigger benefit for me, since I have a DCC layout, was the interface on the cell phone or tablet.

The Blunami app is a free download from the appropriate App Store. When the app is fired up, it will detect the presence of any Blunami locomotive in range, as shown below in **Figure 1**. In this case, two of my three Blunami locomotives show up on the app, since they are present on powered track. I touch the SP GP9 5625 line and then hit the "Standard" button to access that locomotive. I can also touch "Multi Train" to control 2 locomotives at once, but I won't go into that in this article.

When I hit "Standard", I see the screen in **Figure 2** for a few seconds while the app makes a connection to the locomotive and reads its current

state. Once that task is completed, the main throttle screen for the locomotive appears as shown in **Figure 3**. The green ball is the throttle slider. The buttons to the left of that are the most basic functions, such as forward/reverse, lights, bell and whistle controls. If all you need is that functionality, you would never have to leave this page.

There is much more functionality behind the main screen. **Figures 4 and 5** show how the DCC functions can be accessed. This is done by touching the icon in the upper left-hand corner, under the locomotive name. Functions F0-F14 are on one page and F15-F28 are on another page. The best thing about the Blunami is that these functions are labelled. No need to remember function numbers. You can read what the function does and activate or deactivate it.

CVs can also be seen and changed in the Blunami app. Click on the gear in the lower right corner next to the "Stop All" and it brings up the display in **Figure 6**. This is where the locomotive is named, and where I typed in the "SP GP9 5625" that shows up on the app home page. This is also the place to set the DCC address. Soundtraxx recommends you set the DCC address here, not using a DCC programming track or OPS mode programming. From this page, any decoder setting can be checked or changed if necessary.

Choose "Sound Settings" and the display in **Figure 7** appears. The volume can be adjusted along with any other sound setting. Once again, the best part is that it is all labelled. You don't have to know that CV128 is the Soundtraxx master volume CV. The same is true for controlling the lights in the "Light Settings" menu in **Figure 8**.

Basic speed settings, such as the momentum settings, can be changed in the "Speed Settings" menu as shown in **Figure 9**. And if you want to look at actual CV values, you can see all of them as shown in **Figure 10**.

All of this makes running a locomotive with rich functions a joy. The functions are easily accessed and used. Sound and lighting changes are quick and easy. I started out thinking the best part about Blunami was its ability to run without a command station on a DC layout, but now I believe this way of controlling a locomotive is the best part.

Blunami on DCC

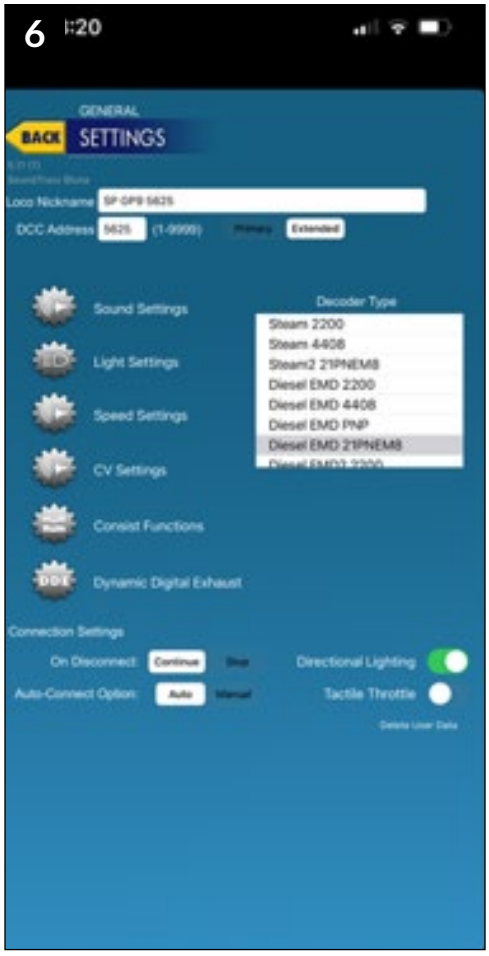
A Blunami locomotive operating on a DCC layout will behave like a regular DCC locomotive until the Blunami app is used to acquire the locomotive. Until that happens, it behaves exactly like a locomotive with a Tsunami 2 decoder would behave. Any throttle can pick it up, just like any other DCC locomotive. Once the Blunami app is used to acquire the locomotive, it cannot be released back to the DCC system. Power must be removed from the locomotive to set it back to a state where it will accept a DCC signal again.

One of the downsides of Blunami on DCC is dirty rail or wheels causing the locomotive to cut out. When this happens, it is sometimes (not always) necessary to kill the app and acquire the locomotive again after restarting the app. This does take a few seconds. I believe this can be rectified with keep-alive technology, but I do not have that on my locomotives and have not tried it.

Blunami on DC

A Blunami locomotive can operate on a DC layout. The throttle should typically be set to full speed (12-14 volts delivered to the track). Once the locomotive is on the track and the power is turned on, the locomotive can be operated using the Blunami app, just like on a DCC layout.

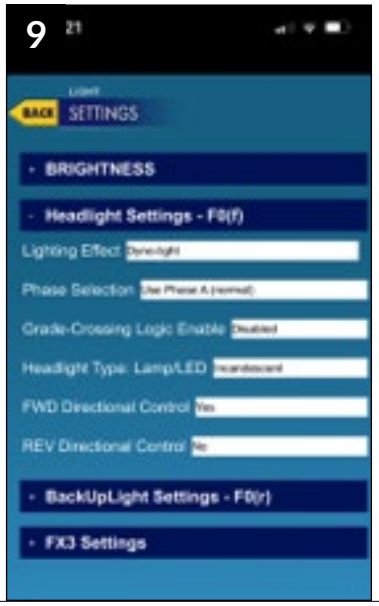
My experience has shown that a good, clean DC power supply is necessary. I learned this when I used a 50-year- old MRC DC power supply for a test. The locomotive would run for a few seconds and stop. I had

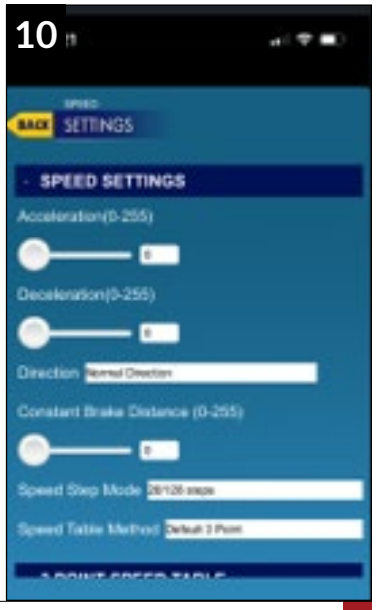


to reacquire the locomotive in the Blunami app to get it going again, only to have it stop again. The older rectifiers are too noisy. I used an MRC Tech III later and it ran just fine. I imagine a wall wart delivering enough current at 12 or more volts DC would work fine as well, although I have not tried that.

Blunami on Dead Rail

I have not tried running a Blunami decoder on dead rail using a battery as input power. However, I have heard of this being done and there is no reason it should be a problem, provided the battery can deliver enough current to operate the locomotive. As battery technology improves, I would expect this to become more prevalent. How nice would it be to run a locomotive with full Tsunami 2 functionality and not have to worry about all the work that needs to be done to power track and keep it clean? Of course, detection systems based on sensing track





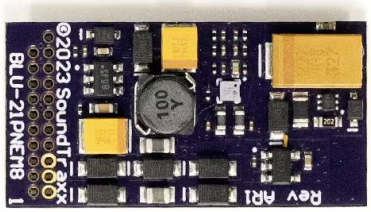
current would have to be replaced, so there are some downsides to it.

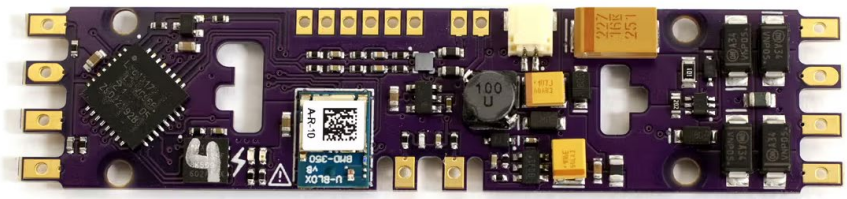
Blunami at the Rosenberg Railroad Museum

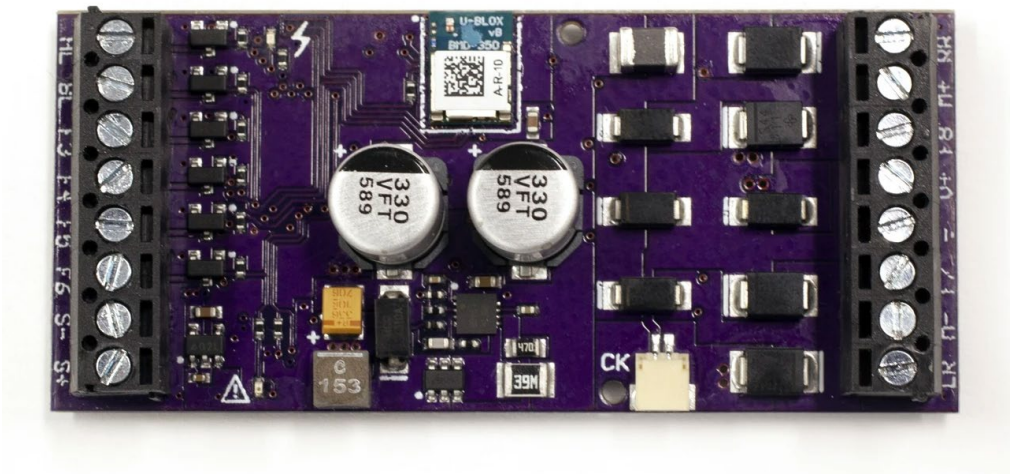
The Union Pacific Railroad gave the Rosenberg Railroad Museum an education grant in 2023 to equip several locomotives with real-time cameras and Blunami decoders. Four locomotives were selected to house a real-time camera. These were all Athearn Blue Box locomotives with their engines replaced by a camera. Five other locomotives were selected or purchased to receive Blunami decoders. The purchased locomotives were DCC ready with 21-pin dummy plugs that were easily converted to DCC and sound, as described earlier. The other locomotives that did not have 21-pin boards received a PNP Blunami, so the installation was a bit more involved.

A train is created with a camera locomotive in front and a Blunami locomotive behind it. The locomotive operator has two tablets. One tablet shows the real-time video from the lead engine. The other tablet contains the Blunami app so the locomotive can be controlled. The idea is to allow a visitor to have an engineer's view from a cab and control the locomotive.

This project was successfully completed in the summer of 2024. The museum has two HO scale layouts, one DC and the other DCC, and we are able to run the Blunami equipped locomotives on either layout with this camera/control functionality. On special occasions, we set up the tablets and allow the museum visitors to get the cab view and operate the locomotive if they want to. This has been a very popular attraction at the museum! **ML**







Just like "regular" decoders, Blunami decoders are available in multiple scales and form factors.

Join the Lone Star Region
Member Directory

Instant Church Directory
Social Networking
Open

The LSR has a member directory! **Joining is completely optional,**
and only the information you choose to provide will be included.
For privacy, the directory is only accessible to those who participate.

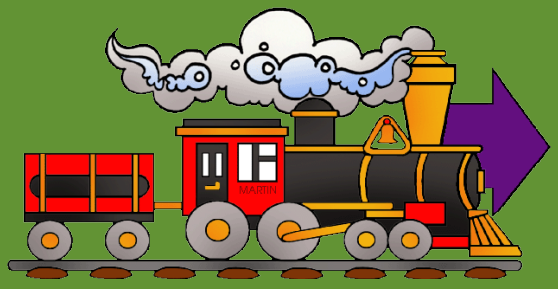
We encourage all members to join, especially if you're interested in visiting other model railroaders while traveling in the region -- this directory will be a great resource!

To join or if you have questions, contact Chuck Lind at chucklind46@gmail.com.
Once he adds you to the system, you'll be able to access the directory using the **Instant Church Directory** app on your smartphone or tablet.

To get started: Install the Instant Church Directory app. Create a login using the same email address you gave Chuck. (**The emails must match, or you won't be able to log in.**) Choose a password with at least 8 characters, including 2 capital letters, numbers, or symbols. Check your email (including your spam folder) for a confirmation message and click the link to verify your account.

Once verified, you can browse the directory, update your own information and photo, and choose how much (or how little) you want to share.

We hope you'll join and help us build a valuable resource for all LSR members!



Wanted!
Nominees for the LSR Youth Award

Who: Any boy or girl 18 years old or younger with an interest in model railroading

Where: One nominee from each LSR Division

A past awardee: May be renominated for another year if they meet the qualifications specified in the LSR Constitution. **Contact Don Winn** donswinn@gmail.com

How: Fill out the special Youth Award Membership Form available on https://lsrnmra.org/

When: Submit your nomination to your LSR Division Director **today**!

For more information contact:
Don Winn, Youth Chairman: donswinn@gmail.com

Basic Electronics and Wiring for the Layout

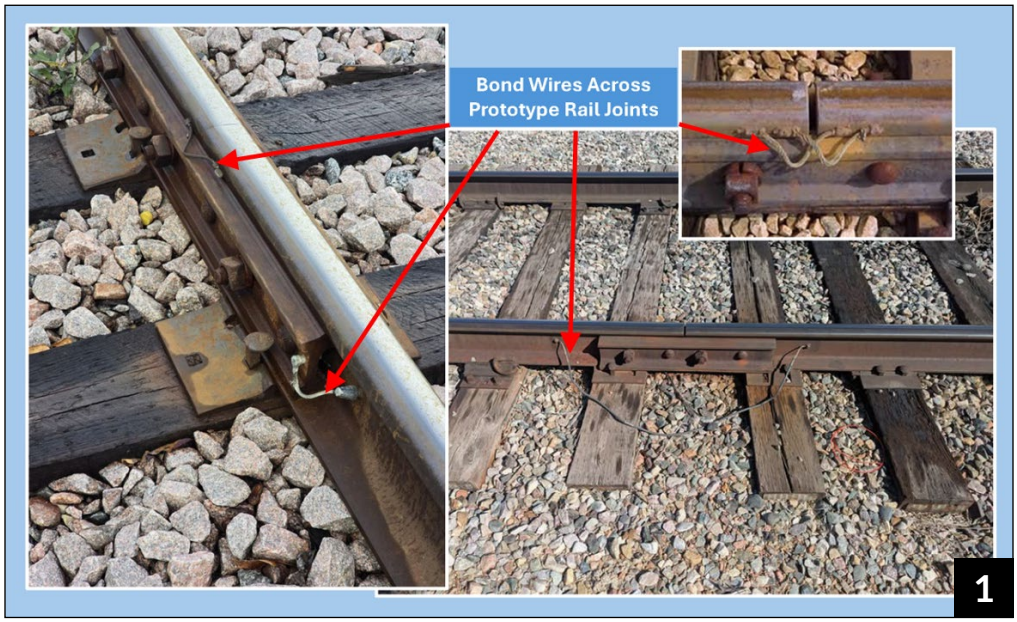
by Cliff Scherer
gettingstarted@centexnmra.org

Even the prototype railroads have some track wiring to do as you can see in the photos of the bonding wires that ensure electrical continuity between track joints. When the circuit is shorted across the rails by a train, the block signal drops to red or a grade crossing signal is activated. On our layouts, wiring and related electronics are the key to operating the layout.

There are basically 3 systems in use today for powering and controlling engines and accessories on model railroads. The old standard, dating from the 1940's, is DC or direct current. A newer system is dead rail or battery-powered engines. This is a great system that works well for some modelers. The third and most common system today is DCC or Digital Command Control. In this "Getting Started" we will be wiring the F&N in anticipation of installing a new DCC-EX system on the layout.

The wiring and electronics plan for a layout depends on several factors. Our layout, the Fredericksburg & Northern, is a modest sized HO scale layout designed for 4 crews working at the same time with up to 6 engines running. The wiring will support a DCC power and control system. Here are the factors that will impact the wiring plan:

1. DCC Control System.
2. Four throttles working at the same time.
3. Throttles will be Wi-Fi.
4. The layout will be divided into power districts for isolation of short circuits.
5. Semi-distributed circuit breakers.



6. Several turnouts powered by Circuitron Tortoises and controlled by accessory decoders connected to dual non-latching pushbuttons on the fascia. The Tortoise will power these frogs.
7. Non-powered turnouts will have powered frogs.
8. There are two reversing loops.

Wiring the Layout

Before we connect the DCC system and run trains, the layout needs to be wired. Our layout will have between 4 and 6 engines running at any given time and 4 crews, meaning 4 throttles will be in use. The layout has 287' of track and is 14' by 26' on the longest wall. It will operate on Timetable and Train Order (TT&TO) rules so wiring for occupancy detection and signaling is not needed at this time.

Major Wiring Features and Components

The F&N will utilize power districts for circuit breakers, a semi-distributed bus wiring plan, powered frogs, and several accessory DCC decoders for powered switches. The major components and specs are listed below. The term "bus" refers to the trunk line run of electrical wiring. Other wiring like track feeders branch off from the bus. The list below shows specific components used on the F&N.

Wire Sizes:

- Track Power Bus and Accessory Bus wire: 14AWG stranded, silicone rubber insulation jacket, flexible. The pair of positive and negative bus wires are twisted together to reduce electromagnetic interference. Twisting is done with both wires in the chuck of a cordless drill on one end and

secured in a vice on the other end. Twisting 25’ or more of flexible silicone insulated wire is easy with this method.

- Electrical Panel Wiring: 18AWG, solid core, stiff
- Feeders from Bus to Rails: 22AWG solid core, max length is approximately 6”
- Feeders from Frog Juicers to frogs: 18AWG, max length 4’
- Control Wiring and Feeders to LED’s: 22AWG, solid core

Color Coding:

- Red and White - track power bus and feeders with red feeders always closest to the fascia
- Blue and White – accessory power bus and feeders
- Green – frog power feeders
- Other color combinations – control wiring such as between push buttons and accessory decoders

Feeder to Bus Connectors:

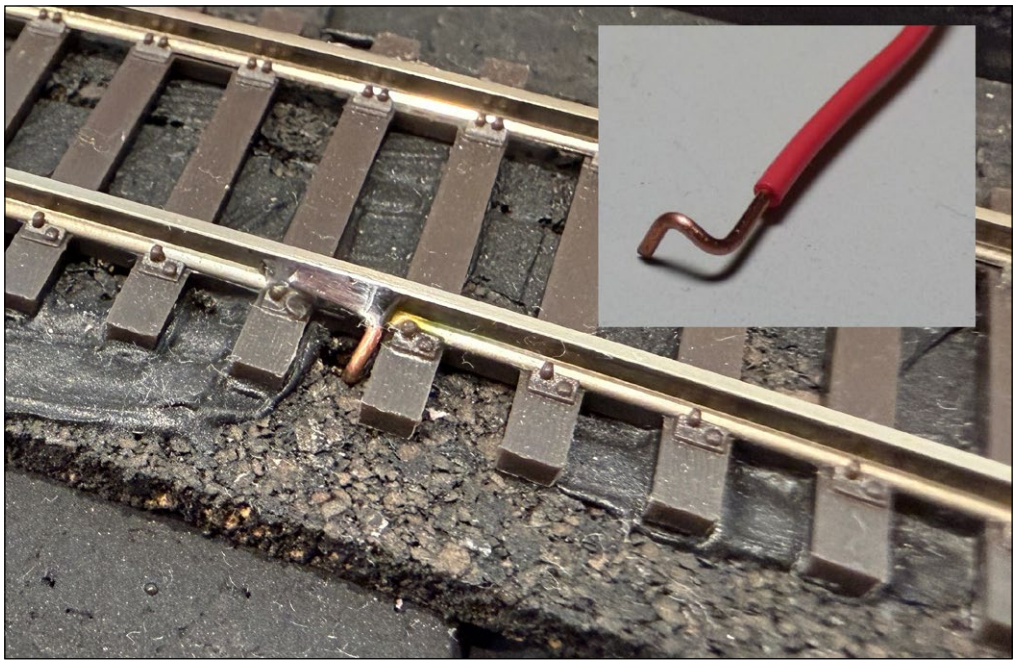
- 3M Scotchlok Connectors (suitcase connectors). These can be tricky to install correctly, and some folks don’t like them. There are other reliable connectors to consider such as lever wire connectors. Also, the old standard is to strip a short section of the bus, twist the feeder around it and solder the joint. Be sure to cover an open solder joint like this with liquid electrical tape or some other insulator.

Circuit Breakers:

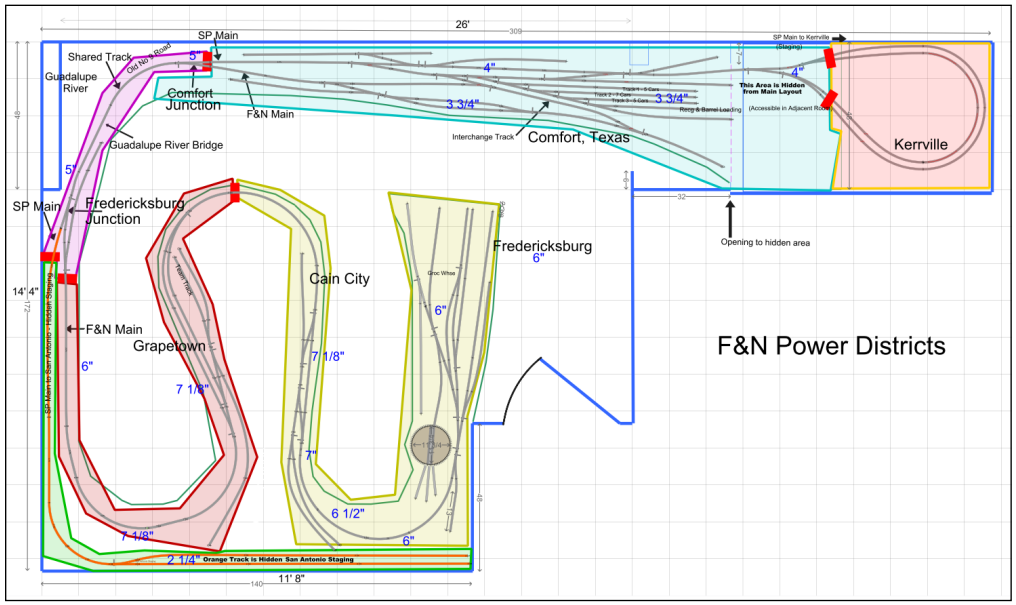
- NCE EB1 Circuit Breakers. Trip current is set at 2.2 amps, but you may need a different trip current on your layout. Also set CV135 to 4 – see EB1 manual for instructions.

Auto Reversers:

- NCE AR10 Auto Reverser. On the F&N, the trip current set to 2.2 amps just like the EB1’s, but some experts suggest that the AR10 may need a lower trip current than the EB1. Experiment with what works in your situation.

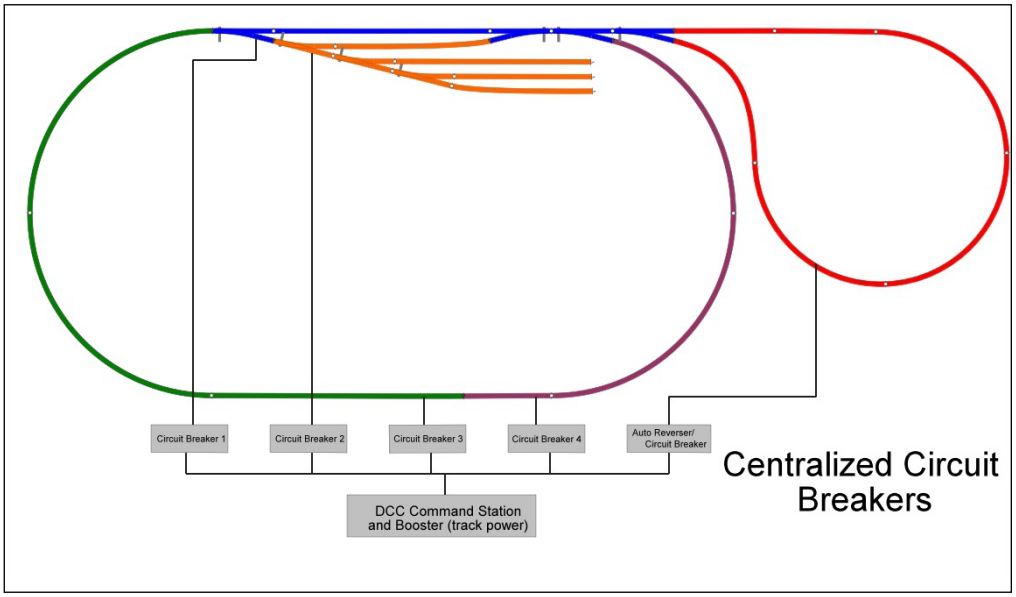


Here a feeder is soldered to the outside of the rail. The inset shows one way to bend the feeder so that it will lie against the side of the rail. The number of feeders should be spaced so that each section of track has a feeder, unless you have soldered the rail joints. In that case, the feeders can be about 6’ apart, but ideally each siding and each turnout should have a feeder. The number of feeders affects not only whether the engines get power, but also the ability of the circuit breakers to detect a short. Too few feeders can increase the resistance between the point of the short and the circuit breaker, meaning the breaker may not detect it.

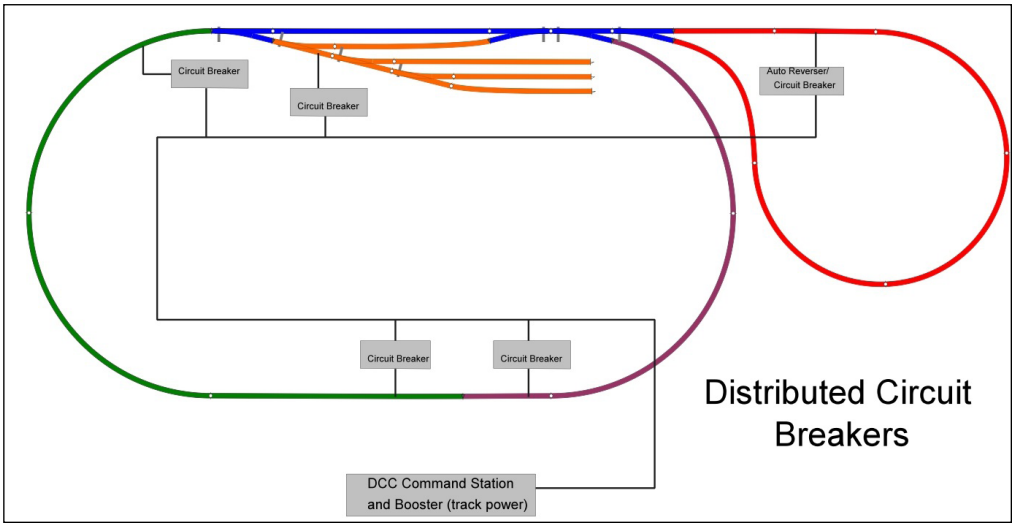


The F&N layout will be divided into power districts which use circuit breakers to cut power to only one area in the event of a short circuit. This means that all the other crews outside of that power district are not interrupted.

A single bus will run around the layout providing power to the circuit breakers. Each circuit breaker will run its own bus under its power district and feeders will connect from the circuit breaker bus to the track.



In these example track plans each power district is a different color, and the rails are gapped between each district. When circuit breakers are distributed around the layout close to their respective power districts, a single bus can be run. With centralized circuit breakers, individual buses are run to each power district from each centrally located circuit breaker. There are advantages to both. Usually, less wire is used in distributed, but having all the circuit breakers together is an advantage of centralized. In any case, it's best to run an LED from the circuit breaker to the fascia in the area of the respective power district. This will give the local crew a visual indication that they have a short.



Powered Switches:

- Circuitron Tortoise 800-6000 Switch Machine.
- NCE Switch-It Mk2. These are controlled by push buttons on the layout fascia but can be automated with DCC. They are accessory decoders designed for powering 2 Tortoise switch machines each. Power is from the DCC bus. Frogs are powered by the SPDT switch integrated into the Tortoise. Be sure to power these from the DCC bus for the power district that the turnout is in.

Powered Frogs on Manual Switches:

- Tam Valley Hex Frog Juicer. These are powered by the track bus and are wired directly to the frogs. Each Hex Frog Juicer powers 6 frogs.

Circuit Breakers:

NCE EB1 circuit breakers are used. These have 3 DIP switches on the board that allow trip current changes. On the F&N, these work best when set to 2.2 amps. Setting the trip current is clearly explained in the EB1 instructions. Your layout may work better at a different trip current, so feel free to experiment, but not with your best DCC engine. See the section on Short Circuits below.

You will also need to change the way the EB1 restarts the power once a short has been cleared. By default, the EB1 will automatically apply full power to the tracks once it no longer detects a short. With DCC, if the full power is restored at once, the locomotive decoders can draw enough amps when they restart that the EB1 will detect it as another short. This will result in a continuous cycle of the EB1 cutting power and restoring power in milliseconds over and over so that nothing will work. The EB1, as an accessory decoder, can be programmed to avoid this by changing CV135 to a value of 4. This will force the EB1 to pulse the power off and on briefly when a short is cleared. The result is that it won't detect decoders restarting as a short. Programming the

EB1 will require the DCC command station to be installed, and we'll cover that in the next "Getting Started".

Note that the adequacy and quality of track wiring will impact how well your circuit breakers work. If the track bus is too small or the feeders are placed too far apart, there will be higher electrical resistance making it more difficult for the circuit breakers to detect a short. Also, how you power other short circuit detectors will have an impact on the performance of the breakers. Other short circuit detectors include Frog Juicers and Auto Reversers.

Short Circuits – Good, Bad and Ugly

On DCC layouts there are actually times when a short circuit is useful. Most times, they are not and sometimes they can get ugly, like when the short damages equipment. Let's do a quick review of short circuits and track electrical testing.

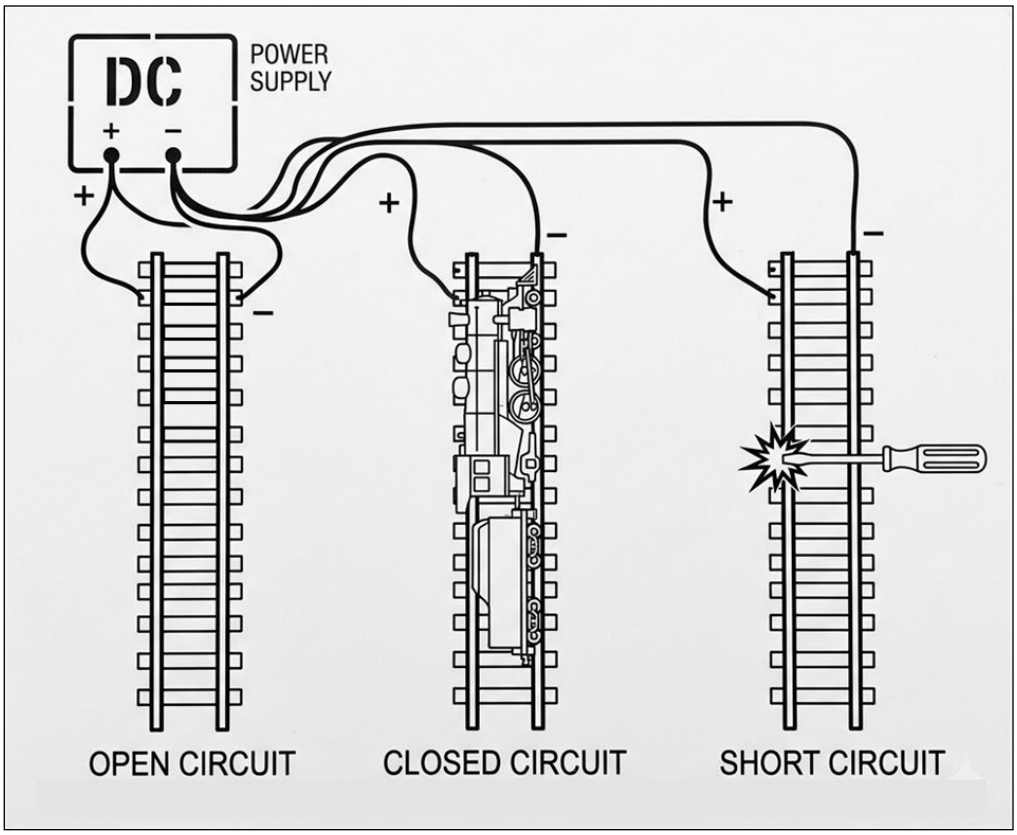
Because short circuits damage electronics, they must be controlled. Circuit breakers used with DCC layouts handle this by monitoring the current being pulled past the breaker. When the current exceeds a predefined limit, the breaker senses this and cuts the power. Most circuit breakers are designed to reset once the short is no longer present.

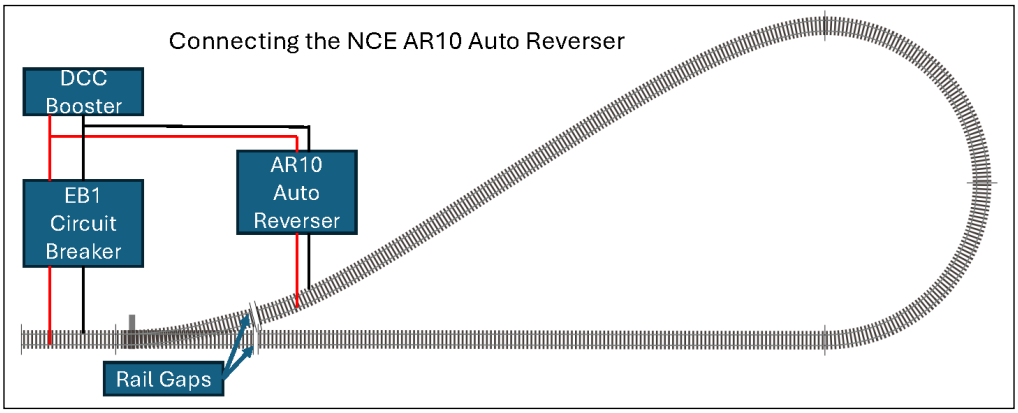
When Short Circuits are Useful

Some short circuits on DCC model railroads are welcomed because they are used by certain electronics to reverse the track polarity. For example, Frog Juicers by Tam Valley and detect a short in milliseconds and reverse polarity to the track to correct the short. These devices can reverse polarity so quickly that the circuit breakers never see it and everything keeps running.

Reverse Loops and Auto Reversers

Reversing loops cause a short circuit when metal wheels bridge the gap at one end of the loop. This is a result of the track, and therefore the track polarity looping back on itself. Fortunately, this is easily dealt with using DCC systems. An auto reverser like the NCE AR10 is designed to detect and instantly correct the short that occurs when the locomotive enters or leaves a reversing loop with polarity reversed. The auto reverser is essentially a circuit breaker that reverses the track polarity when it re-applies power, as described above. The AR10 does have the same trip current settings and DCC CV configuration options as the EB1 circuit breaker.





An auto reverser will reverse the polarity of the reverse loop almost instantly. It is also capable of detecting a short within the loop and cutting track power until it's resolved so there's no need for a separate circuit breaker on the reversing loop.

On the F&N, the trip current is set to 2.2 amps. The CV values were left at default.

Controlling Powered Turnouts

DCC accessory decoders can control Tortoise switch machines. This type of decoder provides more reliable dual push button control of Tortoise switch machines and can be used with DCC-EX in the future for some layout automation. NCE Switch-It accessory decoders are used on the F&N. They

provide simple connections for dual non-latching push buttons.

Powering the Frogs on Manually Controlled Turnouts

On this layout, we will power the turnout frogs. This adds a bit of work, but makes operating sessions run smoother with small switch engines. Many modelers do not power the frogs and have little or no trouble, so adding this to your layout is a personal choice.

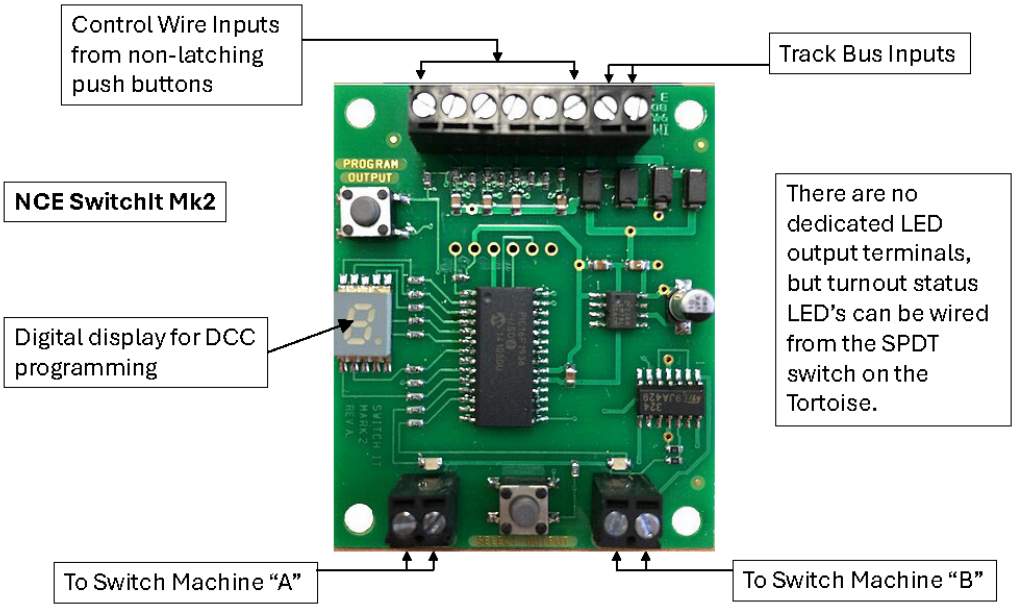
The layout uses Tam Valley Hex Frog Juicers. Wiring the Frog Juicer is easy. Simply connect the track bus to the Frog Juicer power inputs and run a single wire from each output terminal on the Juicer to each frog. The Frog Juicer works by detecting the short if an engine touches a frog with incorrect polarity and corrects the polarity within 300 milliseconds. Because the Frog Juicer works by detecting a short at the frog, it can interfere with circuit breakers if not wired correctly. Tam Valley recommends wiring the Juicer from the main track bus rather than within the power district; however, some layouts work better with it wired from track power within the power district, so you may need to experiment with the best setup on your layout.

Putting it All Together

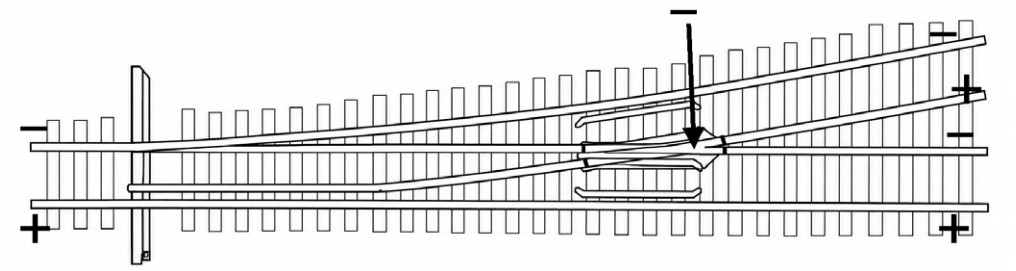
The electrical panels bring together the electronic components and wiring in an organized way keeping wiring neat and making troubleshooting easier. On the F&N the panels are ½" plywood and the components are mounted using nylon spacers to stand them off from the plywood. Borrowing an idea from Joel Davidson's fine layout, some panels are hinged so that they swing up out of the way under the layout and swing down for component installation or maintenance. It's much easier to avoid working upside down under the layout.

Now that we have the layout wired, we're ready to connect the DCC System. In the next *Getting Started* we'll introduce the DCC-EX open-source project and install a DCC-EX CSB1 on the layout.

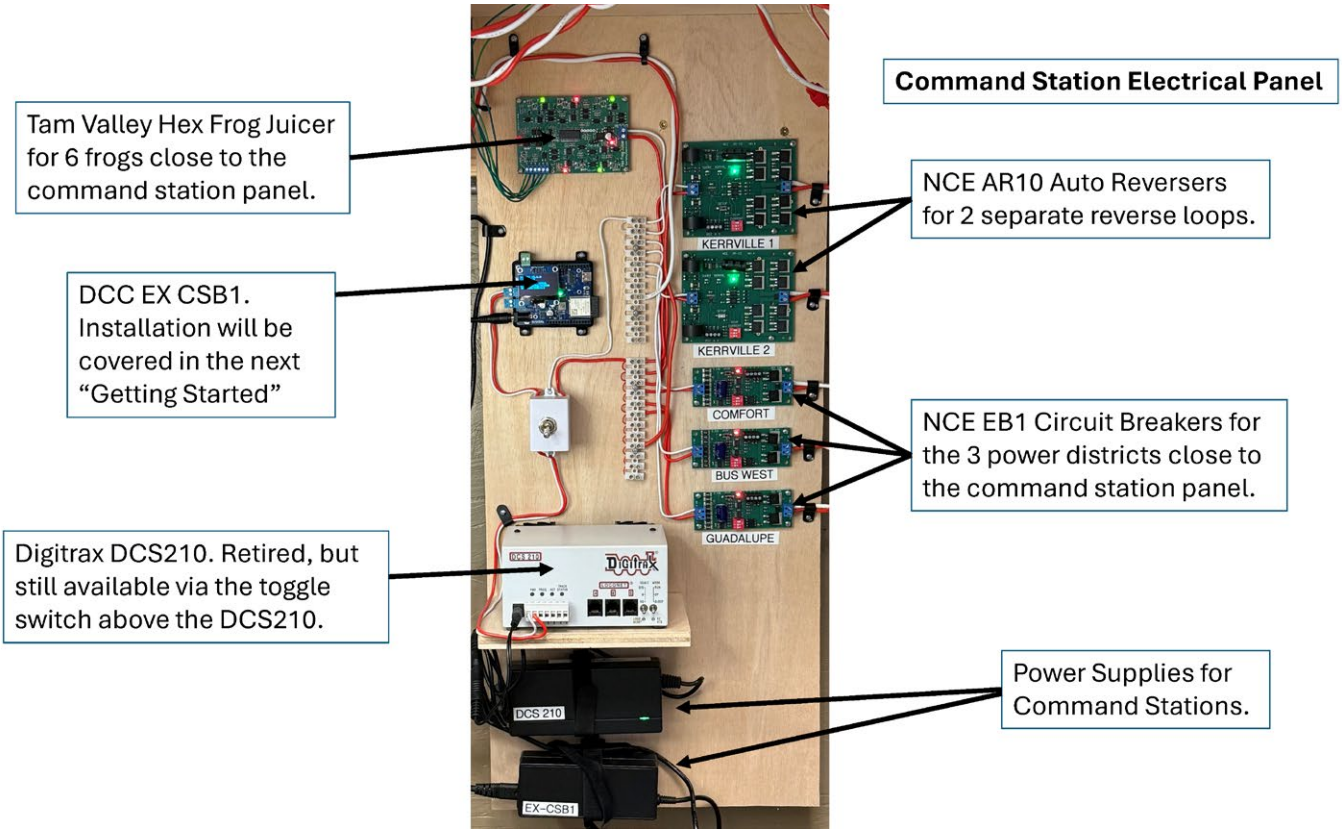
If you have suggestions or comments about *Getting Started*, please email me at gettingstarted@centexnmra.org. **ML**


Control Wire Inputs from non-latching push buttons
Track Bus Inputs
NCE SwitchIt Mk2
There are no dedicated LED output terminals, but turnout status LED's can be wired from the SPDT switch on the Tortoise.
Digital display for DCC programming
To Switch Machine "A"
To Switch Machine "B"

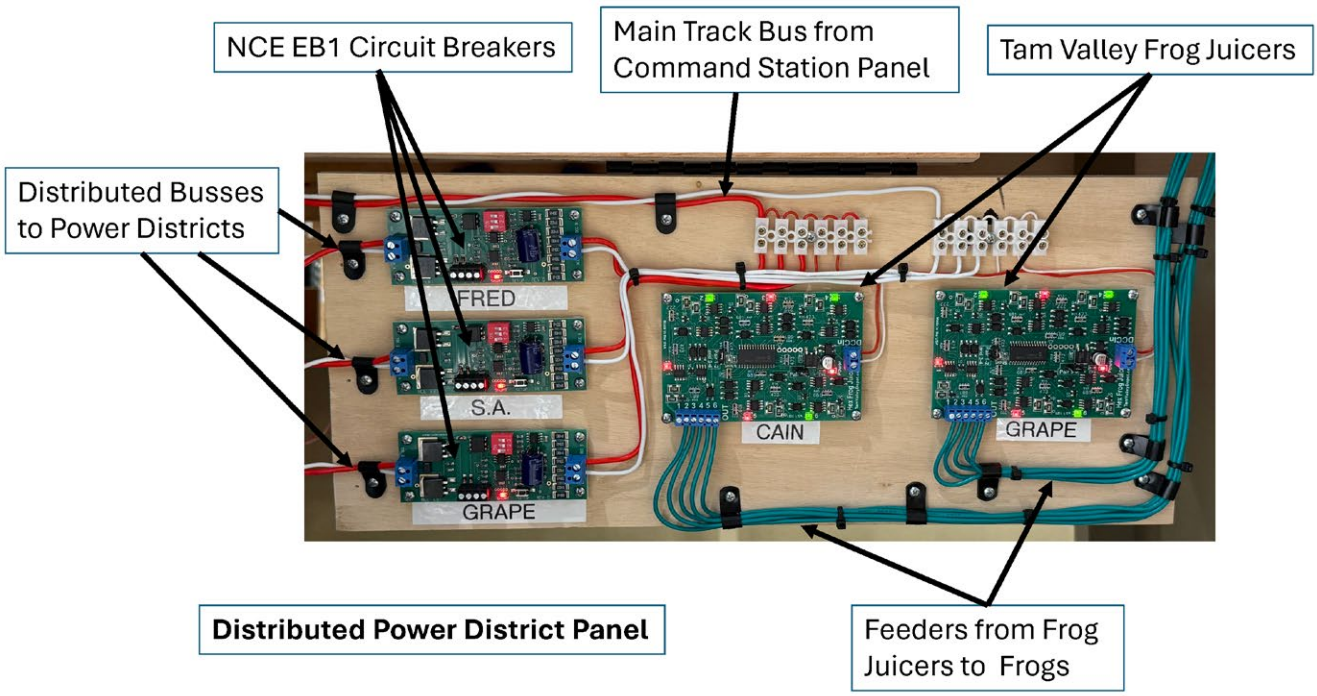
The NCE Switch-It Mk2 is simple to install. It can control 2 Tortoise switch machines. For each Tortoise, you can control it using a single push button, dual push buttons, DCC input from a throttle or a combination allowing either DCC control or push button control. If there are several switches to control that are relatively close together, the Switch8 Mk2 is a cost-effective choice. It will control up to 8 turnouts.



In this example the Frog is powered by the SPDT switch inside the Tortoise Switch Machine. The Tortoise is controlled by an NCE SwitchIt Mk2. When the tortoise throws the points, it also throws the SPDT switch, changing the polarity of the frog to match the points. In the example, a short would occur if a crew runs the engine in from the upper right (diverging) track without first throwing the switch. Special wiring circuits can be created to avoid the short by automatically turning off track power to the diverging route when the points are set against it. But, for our purposes, it's best if the crews pay attention, and if a short does occur the circuit breakers will deal with it until it's cleared.


Command Station Electrical Panel
Tam Valley Hex Frog Juicer for 6 frogs close to the command station panel.
NCE AR10 Auto Reversers for 2 separate reverse loops.
DCC EX CSB1. Installation will be covered in the next "Getting Started"
NCE EB1 Circuit Breakers for the 3 power districts close to the command station panel.
Digitrax DCS210. Retired, but still available via the toggle switch above the DCS210.
Power Supplies for Command Stations.
KERRVILLE 1
KERRVILLE 2
COMFORT
BUS WEST
GUADALUPE
DCS 210
EX-CSB1

The F&N uses semi-distributed power districts meaning that circuit breakers for districts close to the command station are on the same panel. Districts further away have circuit breakers centralized for power districts that are close to each other but relatively removed from the command station.



This panel contains a cluster of 3 circuit breakers for districts that surround the panel. A single bus connects this panel to the command station terminal block. In a centralized design, each of these circuit breakers would be on the command station panel and separate bus lines would extend to each district. This panel also has 2 Hex Frog Juicers. There are 6 Hex Frog Juicers on the layout, each supporting 6 frogs.

Correction

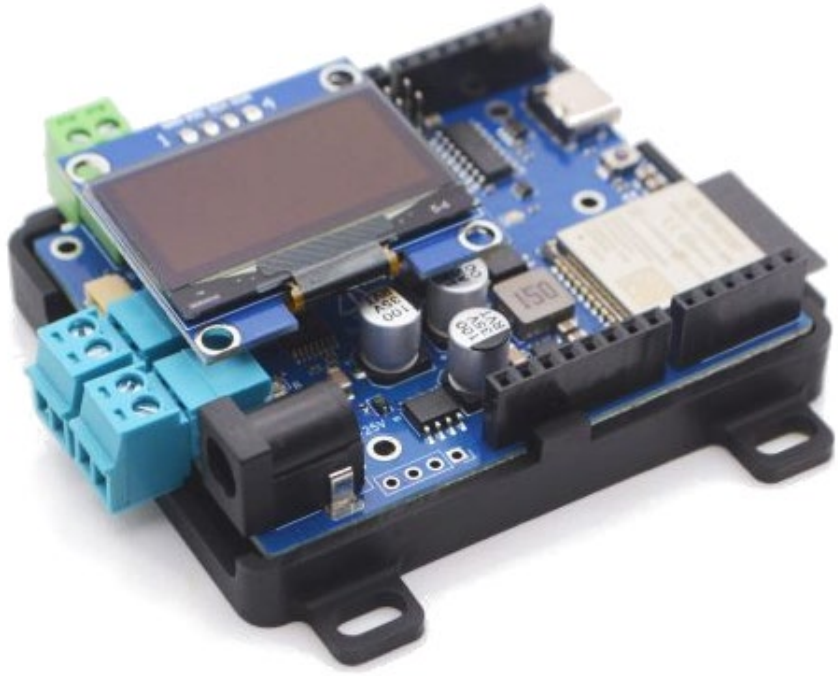
Thank you, Lou Adler, MMR for bringing a couple of issues to my attention in the December 2025 *Getting Started* about laying track.

First, I neglected to talk about the spaces without ties that result when ties are removed to allow insertion of rail joiners. When these ties are removed, they should be kept so that they can be placed back in the gaps. The spike heads and tie plates will need to be shaved and then they can be slid under the rails and glued in place.

Second, which rail joints to solder, or whether to solder at all, was not covered. There are many approaches to this. One reason not to solder any joints is to allow for expansion and contraction: soldering all the joints can result in buckled track.

On the F&N only about a third of the track joints are soldered including all those on curves. Some modelers don't solder any rail joints. Ultimately, you will need to decide what makes sense for your specific situation.

Ask yourself: Will your layout ever be moved? Is your layout in a garage where temperatures and humidity fluctuate? How many feeders will you install?



The DCC-EX CSB1, a very cost effective DCC system. Look for details in the next *Getting Started*.

Chuck Ellis' HO Scale Great Northwestern & Pacific Railway. Photo by Peter Kazmir

THE ORIGINAL ★ SINCE 1973

2026 AUSTIN TRAIN SHOW

25,000 square feet of model railroading fun for the whole family!

Operating Model and Lego Railroads
Clinics • Train Ride • Raffle • Home Tour
Hundreds of Vendor Tables
All Scales - Buy and Sell

Admission $9 in advance • $10 at the door
Includes both days - $1 First Responder Discount
Children 12 and under FREE with adult

Saturday August 29
10:00am – 5:00pm

Sunday August 30
10:00am – 4:00pm

Palmer Events Center
900 Barton Springs Road

Information & Table Sales: austintrainshow.org

Do you live in central Texas?

Whether you're new to model railroading, want a large layout but don't have the room, or just want to hang out with friends...

Come join us!

The Austin Model Railway Society is an HO scale club. Members of all ages meet monthly and participate in many ways, from electronics to scenery to operations.

AUSTIN MODEL RAILWAY SOCIETY
EST AMRS 2017

For more information and how to join, check out our website at austinrailway.org!

Cowcatcher

Magazine

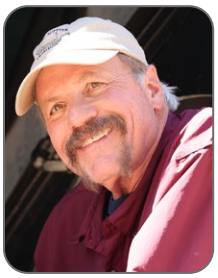
All about the community of model railroading and rail enthusiasm

6 Issues Just $22.95
Mailed to Your Home or Business
Subscribe Today

817-379-5528

www.cowcatchermagazine.com

Historian's Corner



Modeling with a Purpose, Part 3: Steve Sandifer's Howard Branch

by Bob Barnett, MMR
LSR President & Historian

Following up on our discussions on those who model with a specific purpose, there is no better example than Steve Sandifer's Howard Branch.

If you have not visited this beautifully detailed layout you have a golden opportunity this November. The Howard Branch is not an old layout, but it has taken about 20 years to get this far, and the research and planning date back much further.

When Steve's sons moved out of the family home Steve converted one bedroom (plus an exterior extension) to a layout room of approximately 12' x 20'. The upper level represents the Howard branch of the Santa Fe in southeastern Kansas and the lower lever a stretch of the Santa Fe Mainline and the junction city of Emporia. The two levels are connected by an "around the room" spiral that accommodates trains leaving Emporia and working the towns on the Howard Branch.

On the following photo tour of the Howard Branch you will see that most industrial structures and the railroad stations are scratch-built. There are some kit-built structures representing homes, farms and small common industries. Included in the years of planning mentioned above were numerous trips to the towns and areas modeled to measure and photograph buildings and often interview the people who owned or worked at these industries.

So let's take a tour of the Santa Fe's Howard Branch as it appeared in 1952. We will start in the town of Eureka. The first image (above) is an overall view of Eureka. If David Allen Coe recorded "the Perfect Country Song", Steve has created the perfect Mid-Western small town circa 1952. You will see three grain elevator structures, three bulk oil dealers, and a row of modest frame homes and a church. The neighborhood complete with kids playing in the yards, swing sets, one car detached garages and the family Buick in the drive all scream mid-century America. **ML**

The Eureka Elevator was scratch-built based on visits, photos and measurements.

Coronet Seed is one of the more impressive structures on the layout. It was scratch-built.

The accurately modeled Eureka Depot was built by a friend. It has been fully restored and now houses an oil consulting firm.

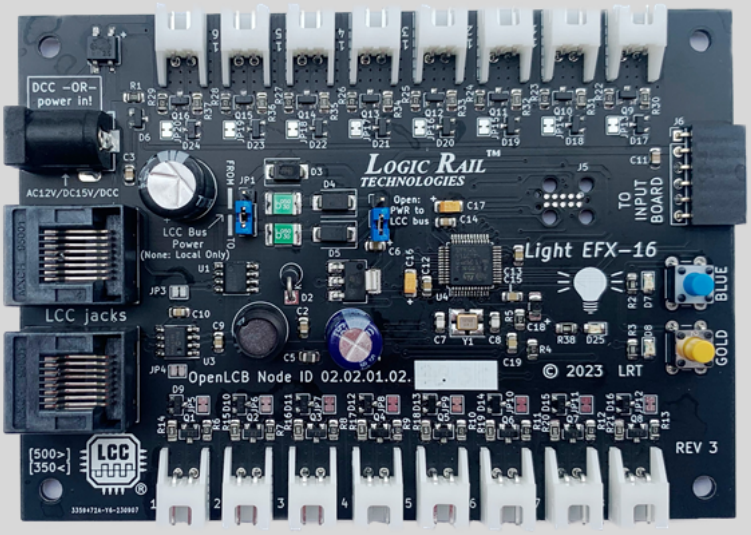
Climax is the second defined town along the branch line. The station was scratch-built by Steve and is fully lighted for night scenes.

The Climax Elevator is another prototype model built for the layout. Sandifer Photo

Arriving in the Mainline Junction city of Emporia we see an overview of the Emporia Yard. Emporia Elevator is on the left with Ersik-Doll Elevator on the right. Sandifer Photo

The Crowning Achievement. This Santa Fe Feeding Station was placed on a large access hatch. The area from the loading track in the foreground to the Mainline curving behind is a lift out.

The Emporia Elevator is a difficult to model riveted steel elevator. Steve had the structure 3-D Printed by a firm that specializes in these large elevators. Sandifer Photo



Light EFX-16

- On-layout lighting effects for 16 Just Plug® -compatible outputs
- Programmable via DCC or LCC
- Light effects such as blinking, pulsing, "fire", fluorescent tube, photographer, welder, fusee, traffic signals and more!
- Programmable brightness
- Trigger via on/off switch, DCC switch command, or LCC fast clock time

LOGIC RAIL™ TECHNOLOGIES

https://www.logicrailtech.com

info@logicrailtech.com
281-251-5813

Check out the **NEW** LSR website!

https://lsrnmra.org

Lots more will be coming soon!

We're looking for more GREAT LSR model railroads for the front page!

Board of Directors Meeting Notes

Minutes of the Lone Star Region Board Meeting

Meeting held in Austin, Texas and via Zoom June 18, 2026.

The Annual January Board Meeting was called to order by President Bob Barnett, MMR at 12:00 noon.

Attendance

All officers, directors, and committee chairs were present except:

Voting Board Members:

- Matthew Lacrouts, Division 2 Director
- (Vacant) Division 7 Director
- Steve Crise, At-Large Director - *Proxy: Deborah Gifford*

Non-Voting Board Members:

- Robert Mangrum, MMR, Education Chair
- Bill Dryden, Events Chair
- Jared Roberts, Membership Chair
- Divina Gato-Hogno, Non-Rail Chair
- Riley Triggs, Publicity Chair
- Speed Muller, Web Chair

The following special guests were in attendance:

- Ray Persing, MMR, National AP Chair and member of the Mid-Central Region, Division 7
- Chris Palmero, National At-Large Director, North America, and member of Cen-Tex Division 4
- Thomas Stephens, National DCC Working Group Member and Liaison to the Dallas Plano Train Show, and member of Trinity River Division 3.

Motion 1: Reading and Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

Peter Kazmir made a motion to dispense with the reading of the January 2026 minutes and to accept the previous meetings minutes as published in the January *Marker Lamp*. It was seconded by Don Winn, MMR. The motion passed unopposed.

Board Reports

Reports were provided by all officers, directors, and committee chairs except for Matthew Lacrouts, Jeff Rykel, Ray Byer, Jeff Palmer, Robert Mangrum, Jared Roberts, Peter Kazmir, Divina Gato-Hogno, Riley Triggs, and Speed Muller.

Reports are listed after the Meeting Notes. No corrections were requested.

Motion 2: Acceptance of Board Reports

Peter Kazmir provided a motion, and Don Winn, MMR seconded, to accept the board reports as presented. The motion passed unopposed.

Old Business

2027 Convention Update – Trinity River Division 3

Donna Orr gave a update to the Board about the 2027 convention in Division 3. The convention will be held at the Holiday Inn on US-75 in North Dallas. The cost for a room is expected to be $96/night. A committee has been formed to work on setting up clinics for the convention. The hotel has room for all meeting activities including a non-rail room and a place where we can build something if we want to do some type of build. Speed Muller is coordinating operations, and Jeff Rykel is the chairman for the convention. Dick Brannon offered Division 1's help with the convention.

Motion 3: Convention Grant

Deborah Gifford made a motion to approve $2,000 grant for Division for the 2027 convention. The motion was seconded by Doug Taylor. The motion passed unopposed.

2028 Convention Update – South Texas Division 6

Don Winn presented that the 2028 convention committee is having difficulty finding an appropriate cost-effective venue for the convention. It was discussed that San Antonio has become a tourist town and therefore hotels are not willing to make a "reasonable" offer to be a host location. It was discussed to hold the actual convention at a different location than a hotel, such as a school, Junior College or a church as this has worked well for other Regions and divisions in our Region.

Website Update

Peter Kazmir updated the board on the LSR website, stating that it is about halfway done in terms of content. Special thanks went out to Speed Muller who has gotten all of the clinics and *Marker Lamp*s going back to 2004 transferred from the old website to the new website.

All contest information has been transferred as well as official documents, the bylaws and constitution are now on the website. Additionally, all current officers and chairs contact information has been added.

What remains to be finished is the membership pages, like how to join, what the divisions are and various other miscellaneous information. Division website links have been received but a Division page is still under construction. This new page will contain links for each Division and a mechanism whereby zip codes can be entered, and it will inform a user which Division corresponds to the zip code.

The website will be handed off to Kevin Reynolds and Speed Muller in August 2026.

New Business

LSR Zoom Licenses

Motion 4: Acceptance of Board Reports

Eric Smith proposed to form a committee to investigate Zoom for the LSR and the Divisions. Kelly Russell, MMR seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

The discussion around the motion is to have the board form a committee to investigate the cost associated with getting an LSR license for Zoom. That committee is to investigate a professional license that can be used for board meetings. The Board could use it for meetings if needed between board members.

Additionally, it was discussed for the committee to look at how to set it up that the Divisions could possibly have a Zoom license provided to them by the Region for their meetings. Bob Barnett, MMR appointed Eric Smith, Marc LaChey, MMR, and Jeff Rykel to this newly-formed committee and asked they report back to the board over the summer as to their findings and recommendations.

Motion 5: Funding for Zoom Licenses

Steve Sandifer, MMR proposed to provide funding for Zoom licenses for the Region and Divisions if the cost was under $300/year. Jeff Rykel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Special AP/MMR Evaluations

Duane Richardson, MMR presented that there is a special case for having one of our Region's members that lives in far Southeast Louisiana. This person does not have anyone close that can come and evaluate their work for AP credits and MMR.

Discussion centered around having 2 people from Southeast Texas to provide the necessary support for this evaluation. Also discussed was the possibility of having someone from the Southeast Region provide this kind of support as it has to be done in person, not over video, for certain aspects of the evaluation like structures and cars. Ray Persing, MMR, National AP Chair, indicated that video is not an acceptable way to judge those two categories.

Chris Palmero mentioned that there may be $200 that can be applied for from National as a retention activity to help offset the expenditure.

Motion 6: Funding for Special AP/MMR Evaluations

Marc LaChey, MMR made a motion to authorize $1500 for travel to do the judging on the work by this potential MMR. Deborah Gifford seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Motion 7: Adjournment

Marc LaChey, MMR made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Don Winn, MMR. The motion passed unopposed and the meeting was adjourned at 12:48pm.

A zoom recording of the meeting is available on the LSR's Google Drive at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qg4DVqiLRAEeghK00nzzUZ08KL8LFgV4/view?usp=drive_link **ML**

Officer, Director, and Department Reports

President

by Bob Barnett, MMR
rbarnettmopac@gmail.com

In response to the current effort to get more activity at the divisional level of each region this report will concentrate on the current stats of each division in the NMRA/Lone Star Region.

Cowcatcher Division 1 (137 Members):

Division 1 centers around Fort Worth, Texas and the majority of the active members live in the greater Fort Worth metropolitan area. The Division meets monthly on the second Saturday of each month at the Texas Western Model Railroad Club in Forest Hill (Southwest Fort Worth). Division 1 has a full slate of officers and maintains an excellent website. The monthly meetings are held in-person and on Zoom. The average attendance is 35 to 40 members in person and 10 to 15 on line. The meetings are carefully coordinated with neighboring Division 3 (Dallas) with members of each division being welcome to attend either meeting or both. There are currently a large number of NMRA/LSR members living in the Mid-Cities area between Dallas and Fort Worth and may consider themselves as Dallasites or Fort Worthians. This coordinated effort between the divisions has produced a healthy NMRA environment and a larger number of MMR's than any other area of the LSR.

Bayou Division 2 (77 Members):

Division 2 is comprised of the southern half of Louisiana and the majority of the active members live in the greater New Orleans area and the greater Baton Rouge area. Division 2 has hosted several LSR Conventions over the years with the most recent being in 2025. The newly-elected Division 2 Director also served as the Co-Chair of the 2025 LSR Convention in 2025.

The Trinity River Division 3 (154 Members):

Division 3 centers on Dallas, Texas and is actually the birthplace of the LSR. Buddy and Bobbye Hall, owners of Halls Hobby Shop, collected names on a petition and well-known author Bill McClanahan carried the petition to the NMRA Convention in Milwaukee in 1951 and the LSR was born. Division 3 holds monthly meetings on the third Saturday of each month and like their neighbors to the west all NMRA members in the area are encouraged to attend. Division 3 also has a website (Currently down for changing providers) and their meeting attracts 35 to 45 in person attendees and several more on Zoom. MMR Duane Richardson the LSR Achievement Program Chair lives in the Dallas area and attends both Division 1 and 3 monthly meetings. The effort of Duane working with volunteers from both divisions has resulted in a surge of new MMRs over the last few years. Division 3 has hosted numerous LSR Conventions over the years and is scheduled to host the 2027 Convention.

Cen-Tex Division 4 (124 Members):

The Centex Division is centered on Austin, Texas and comprises a large part of the "I-35 Corridor". Growing from a few members in Austin in the 1980's to one of the most active divisions in the LSR, the Centex Division has hosted 5 LSR Conventions over the years with most coming since 2000. The All-NMRA Austin Model Railway Society has played a large part in this growth and the current cooperation with neighboring Division 6 to the south has provided a seed-bed for healthy growth in the in I-35 Corridor. Like Divisions 1 and 3 to the north Divisions 4 and 6 hold coordinated meetings on and every other month basis and members from both Divisions are invited to attend. Like the D-FW area there is a large population base living in the area between Austin and San Antonio that may feel allegiance to either city. Division 4 recently held the 2026 LSR Convention in June.

West Texas Division 5 (23 Members):

The large geographic area and wide spread location of members has made it difficult to create and maintain an active division. Over the years Lubbock has hosted three LSR conventions and Amarillo has hosted one. The loss of several active members in the division has made it difficult to host conventions. The most recent Division Director did hold Zoom meetings but unfortunately has moved out of the region. The newly appointed director has been promised LSR support in his endeavors to restart Division activities.

South Texas Division 6 (72 Members):

While covering a large area of south Texas, Division 6 centers on San Antonio, Texas. Historically San Antonio has hosted a large number of LSR Conventions. The surge in the

tourist industry in San Antonio has made it difficult to find hotels willing to work with the LSR on the needed space requirements for a convention our size during the summer months. In cooperation with Division 4 to the north Division 6 schedules every other month meetings which allow members to attend one or both. Division 6 is scheduled to host the 2028 LSR Convention.

North Louisiana Division 7 (20 Members):

Division 7 is composed or the northern half of Louisiana and several counties in northeast Texas. With a modest sized membership and very large geographic area, it is currently the least active Division in the LSR. The Division 7 area has hosted two LSR Convention over the years with one in Longview, Texas in 1991 and one in Shreveport, Louisiana in 1993. The loss of a long-time director coupled with no volunteer replacements has created a vacuum. The LSR President will attempt to contact all members in Division 7 to secure a volunteer new director. If no volunteer director can be found, the Division will be combined with Division 2 (South Louisiana) and Division 3 (Dallas area).

Texas Gulf Division 8 (192 Members):

Division 8 is centered around Houston and is the largest division membership-wise in the LSR. For many years Division 8 met every other month on Saturdays. Limited attendance at the Saturday meetings prompted Division 8 to meet jointly with the San Jacinto Model Railroad Club, a large all-NMRA Club that meets the first Tuesday of each month and all other Division 8 members are invited to other activities. The newly elected Division 8 Director is planning several field trip type activities on weekends to encourage attendance for Division 8 members living far enough away to cannot attend the weekday San Jac Meetings.

To summarize:

Cowcatcher Division 1 (137 Members)
Meetings: Monthly second Saturday at 10:00 am
Director: Dick Brannan
Secretary: John Kirkpatrick
Treasurer: David Grein
Program Manager: Harold Barenzweig
Train Show Coordinator: Russell Gifford
Operations Manager: Jim Davis
Assistant Operations Manager: David Ranney
Achievement Program Director: Mike Mackey, MMR
Newsletter Editor: Robert Mangrum, MMR

Bayou Division 2 (77 Members)
Director: Matthew Lacrouts

Trinity River Division 3 (154 Members)
Meetings: Monthly, third Saturday at 10:00 am
Director: Jeff Rykel
Treasurer: Donna Orr

Cen-Tex Division 4 (124 Members)
Meetings: Bi-Monthly, odd months, third Saturday at 10:00 am
Director: Doug Taylor
Asst Director and Volunteer Coordinator: Joe Dumas
Treasurer: Tom Weaver

West Texas Division 5 (23 Members)
Director: Galen Van Allen

South Texas Division 6 (72 Members)
Meetings: Bi-Monthly, even months, third Saturday at 10:00 am
Director: Roy Kaiser

North Louisiana Division 7 (20 Members)
Director: Currently Vacant

Texas Gulf Division 8 (192 Members)
Monthly Meeting in conjunction with the San Jacinto Model Railroad Club, 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm
Director: Kelly Russell, MMR
Vice-President: Chuck Lind, MMR
Treasurer: Tom Marsh

Vice-President

by Marc LaChey, MMR
bu1977@att.net

As the newly elected Vice President of the Lone Star Region, I do not have any past activity upon which to report. That said, allow me to share my thoughts on the future.

First, as a volunteer organization, we only survive based on our ability to attract and retain folks willing to step up and help in whatever capacity of interest or talent. And that requires those of us currently involved to make the organization friendly and welcoming. Given that model railroading includes folks from many different backgrounds, those of us here now need to be open and welcoming to newcomers.

Second, as with any organization, we will face issues from time to time. But for the organization to survive, we need to do our best to listen to all viewpoints and try as best we can to find common ground. That often means compromise. Even more so, it means asking ourselves if a particular issue is something critical to the existence of the organization or just a passing annoyance. Is the issue a hill that you are willing to die on?

Third, being nice to one another is not always easy. I try, but don't always succeed. So, this is your invitation from me to pull me aside privately and let me know if I have failed to be nice. This is a hobby after all and playing trains should be fun.

Regards,
Marc LaChey, MMR

Treasurer

by Steve Sandifer, MMR
steve.sandifer@sbcglobal.net

It is budget time. Attached is last year's budget, actual, and a proposed for 2026-7.

Several notes:

- National did not send the March rebate, or at least I did not receive it. I have contacted national to check into this. As a result, the budget reports one rebate in the current year and three for next year.
- Neither the 2026 nor 2027 conventions are seeking loans, just grants.
- We had 9 youth awards this year.
- We paid for three years of the directory this year so there should be no expense the next 2 years.

Proposed 2025-2026		Proposed 2026-27	Income
Approved	Actual		
$20.00	$60.00	$100.00	Ad, Dealer, Marker Lamp
$24.00	$80.00	$0.00	Ad, Pike, Marker Lamp
			Conv 2024 proceeds
			Conv 2023 proceeds, National
$2,000.00	$2,000.00		Conv 2025 loan repayment
$1,000.00	$1,430.46		Conv 2025 proceeds
		$1,500.00	Conv 2026 proceeds
$50.00			Plano Train Show
$1,600.00	$774.00	$2,300.00	NMRA Rebate
$1,000.00	$1,517.00	$1,500.00	Interest Earned CD Fund
			Interest From Conv Fund
			Patches and Decals
			MSSB interest
$85.00			Div #1 Virginia Freitag Award (5 years)
			Donations
			Amazon Smile
			Transfer from Savings
$5,779.00	$5,861.46	$5,400.00	TOTAL INCOME

Proposed 2025-2026		Proposed 2026-27	Expense
Approved	Actual		
$35.00		$35.00	Achievement-LSR Program
$75.00		$75.00	Board Meeting
$75.00			Mid-Year Meeting Expense
$550.00	$626.31	$600.00	Contest-Convention
$500.00	$393.33	$500.00	Convention, non rail
			Conv 2024 Grant
			Conv 2025 loan
$2,000.00			Conv 2025 Grant
$2,000.00			Conv 2026 loan
$2,000.00	$2,000.00		Conv 2026 Grant
$1,000.00		$2,000.00	Conv 2027 Grant
			Convention General Expense (1)
			501C3 IRS Expense
$800.00	$387.00	$1,150.00	NMRA Rebate to divisions
			Election Chair Expenses
			Historian Expenses
$375.00			Marketing
$75.00			Membership Chair Expenses
$100.00			President-Office Expenses
			Secretary Exp. & Postage
$25.00	$9.44	$25.00	Treasurer Exp. & Postage
			Marker Lamp Print & Mail
			Sign and Print for Events
	$380.46		Audio/visual
	$394.60		Directory
$50.00			Memorial Denotations
$250.00	$498.48		Website Costs
$25.00	$0.19		Banking Costs
$150.00	$348.00		Youth Membership Program
$50.00			Youth Chair Expenses
$10,135.00	$5,037.81	$4,385.00	TOTAL EXPENSES

-$4,356.00	$823.65	$1,015.00	*Net income/expense*

	Held in Escrow
$605.50	Div 2, S. Louisiana
$248.00	Div 3, N. Louisiana
$11.50	Div 7, W. Texas

Secretary

by Eric Smith
eric@scalerrmodels.com

As I assume the role of the Secretary for the Board of Directors, I would like to thank all who voted for me for the position, even though I was running un-opposed. I met with the outgoing Secretary on May 20 to hand over the duties and responsibilities of the position. Peter instructed me on the procedures that have been in place and been used successfully for keeping records.

Eric Smith

Board Advisor

by Donna Orr
donnalorrtx@gmail.com

During this quarter, my primary focus has been supporting Division 3 in the planning and development of the 2027 Regional Convention. This has included participating in discussions, providing guidance on organizational matters, and assisting with coordination efforts as planning continues to move forward.

In addition to convention-related activities, I have worked with several board members and volunteers on a variety of issues that have arisen during the quarter. These efforts have included discussions and problem-solving related to the Virtual Museum project, as well as other operational and organizational matters requiring board attention.

As Board Advisor, I have continued to make myself available as a resource to division leadership and board members, offering assistance and perspective as needed to help advance League goals and support ongoing projects.

Donna Orr

Cowcatcher Division 1

by Dick Brannan
director@cowcatcherdivision.org

The Cowcatcher Division has been having an exceptionally good year. We are seeing attendance at our monthly meetings vary between 45 and 57 people. Our members are seeing clinics on a variety of topics ranging from Layout Planning and Building presented by Don Winn to techniques for weathering using Pan Pastels by Mike Ross.

We also have kicked off something new to encourage members to attend meeting. Borrowing from Division 3, we announce at the end of meeting the address of the members' layout which is open for viewing after the meeting. Participation averages about 10 members per open house.

Last year, Darrell Cowles led a team consisting of Harold Berenzweig and David Steckler to develop novel ways to promote and grow the hobby at non -traditional venues. One idea coming from this team was to build a railroad themed diorama that was about 18 inches wide by 30 long inches long and 18 inches deep in an acrylic display case suitable for display at libraries in the area. The case will contain a QR code directing the observer to the Cowcatcher Division website and to a page tailored to people new to the hobby. Below is a photo of the diorama without the acrylic cover.

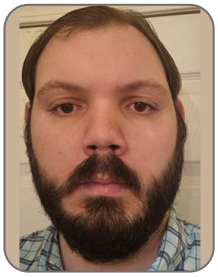
As I mentioned last fall, the Division created a new attraction for the NMRA booth at the Plano Train Show, directed entirely to children. Developed by Deb and Russell Gifford, the Junior Engineer Academy put a throttle in a child's hand so they could run a train on a small layout and experience the joy of operating. For the January Plano Train Show, which had 4800 paid attendance and 1800

kids, we again did the Junior Engineer Academy and handed out over 250 Engineer hats.

Recognizing economic conditions may not be the best for all of our members, the Division created Benevolent Committee which, using donated funds, under certain conditions, may assist NMRA members facing hardship with their membership dues.

Dick Brannan

Bayou Division 2



by Matthew Lacrouts
lsrdivision2director@gmail.com

No Report Received

Trinity River Division 3

by Jeff Rykel
jeff_rykiel@yahoo.com

No Report Received

Cen-Tex Division 4

by Doug Taylor
director@centexnmra.org

Greetings from Division 4,

As of the time of writing, we are in the last couple of weeks before the 2026 LSR Convention. It has been an adventure to be sure and could not have come together so well without the tireless efforts of the great Convention Committee. When we first learned that we were hosting this year's convention we were already 6+ months behind the normal schedule for these things. I put out a call and had an amazing group of volunteers step up to make this convention happen. This wonderful group of people have had a lot of successes, and a few disappointments, in bringing the Region a great event.

For this year we have 2 great prototype tours that are free to attend. There are over 40 interesting clinics to choose from (including make and takes), over 30 layouts that will be available to tour, plenty of opportunities to participate in off-site AND on-site operating sessions, some fun non-rail events that are open to all, and 3 special guests to hear from. All of this in addition to the usual contest room, silent auction, raffle, door prizes, social hour, and of course, a great banquet of good old Texas BBQ! We are looking forward to seeing old friends and making new ones as we all "connect" at this year's convention.

We have had a number of members do presentations and clinics at our Division meetings to share their knowledge with the members, as well as quite a few showing their amazing layouts during layout tours. We also have had a number of members bring in projects they are working on to show the membership. There have been some excellent models shown and the Q&A after each is presented is informative to all.

Update (July 2026):

Well, it's over. The annual LSR Regional convention has left the Austin station and is headed up the tracks to DFW. The journey was exciting and terrifying, challenging and rewarding, and stimulating and exhausting all at the same time. I am honored to have been able to showcase the hard work and dedication of the convention committee and volunteers. Likewise, I cannot thank enough those great members who offered up their great layouts for tours and operating sessions, with special thanks to the AMRS and area T-Trak folks for setting up and running at the convention site. We hope that all had a good time. Now it is time for us to recover and get back to playing with trains!

We have had a number of members do presentations and clinics at our Division meetings to share their knowledge with the members, as well as quite a few showing their amazing layouts during layout tours. We also have had a number of members bring in projects they are working on to show the membership. There have been some excellent models shown and the Q&A after each is presented is informative to all.

The next meeting for the division will be July 11th at the Austin NW Rec center. The meeting will start at 10:00 and as always it will be broadcast live on Zoom. As usual we invite all to our meetings in person. If you would be interested in dropping in on the zoom meeting, just drop me a line and I'll add you to our email list.

West Texas Division 5

by Galen Van Allen
galenvanallen@gmail.com

As I take over the division, I plan to restart the zoom meeting that Brooks was holding. Currently the plan is to use the same format that he came up with. As time goes by, we will adapt as needed to keep the meetings fluid and fun, but also informative. I intend to try to add in clinics from time to time to help foster education as well. The general format will be:

1. **Division and Regional Updates** A brief highlight of upcoming Division and Regional events. These are already detailed in our monthly newsletter, so this segment will be kept short to conserve time.
2. **Trivia Time** A quick bit of railroad-related trivia or an interesting fact from the hobby to spark interest and discussion.
3. **New and Noteworthy Products** A look at up to three new or interesting product announcements that may be of interest to modelers.
4. **Prototype History Spotlight** A short history presentation on a topic related to prototype railroading. This could be a specific railroad, location, or historical event.
5. **Modeling Tips and Tricks** An opportunity for members to share techniques, tools, or strategies that make modeling more enjoyable or efficient.
6. **What's On Your Bench?** A show-and-tell style segment where members can share current projects, progress, and questions. This is a great chance to seek advice or simply inspire others.

Like Brooks I feel like this will be a good format to encourage discussion and learning but not in a lecture format. We will continue to listen to feedback and make adjustments as needed to keep it flexible, engaging and fun.

NMRA LSR Division 5 meets on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 PM (Central Time). Meetings are held entirely online using Zoom.

To receive meeting announcements, reminders, the Zoom link, and other Division updates, please sign up at the following link: http://eepurl.com/hRLLm9

Galen Van Allen

South Texas Division 6

by Roy Kaiser
fr8train@gvtc.com

Hello to everyone from South Texas:

I am pleased to announce that I was re-elected as Division 6 Director for another 2 years. Since taking over the leadership position two years ago we have continued to hold a steady membership and progress in our attendance while improving the quality of clinics and presentations.

Our attendance for bi-monthly Division 6 meetings continues to be between 25 -30 which is above our 2025 average. Each meeting has been complete with a clinic by a local model railroader and most meetings have included a home layout tour afterward.

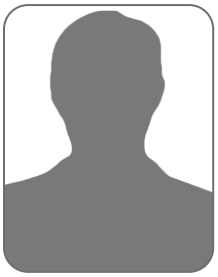
The new NMRA "Brand" continues to be a point of contention. There has been very little information from the National NMRA on the new rules for the logo and the impact at the division level. Division 6 members, have once again expressed their desire to maintain the current logo which we worked for most of a year. We feel the logo best expresses the area of South Central Texas and the rich railroad heritage of the region. General consensus on the new NMRA logo being used at the region level has not been a positive one.

Our current membership stands at 71 which is the result of 1 member leaving the division and another new member joining.

I was proud to resent Don Winn with his certificate for AP Structures on June 13th. Don, who already has the MMR award for several other certificates, continues to excel in his model railroading journey. As Don has progressed on his home layout, we have held his first Operating Session. Don also opened his layout for the group tour following our June meeting. Thanks, Don!

In closing, I would like to once again express my sincere gratitude for the continue support of our sponsors Discount Model Trains, Papa Ben's Train Place, Prototype N Scale Models, Maverick Metalwork and the Longhorn Café. Thank you all.

North Louisiana Division 7



(Position currently vacant)

Texas Gulf Division 8

by Kelly Russell, MMR
krussl@yahoo.com

I would like to thank everyone that voted to give me another opportunity to lead the Texas Gulf Division 8. Also, I want to thank Phil Stewart for his un-ending dedication and leadership over the past years. Thanks also to the other officers, Vice-president Chuck Lind and Tom Marsh the Treasurer. We are actively looking for a replacement Vice-President.

Kelly Russell presented a clinic in May on the History of Tank Cars to the combined San Jac and TGD8 membership meeting. There was also a presentation on the PRR Annual Convention and an update of their restoration of the T1 locomotive by Ray Holtzapple at the combined June meeting.

AP Update: We are pleased to congratulate Steve Sandifer on the awarding of the Association Official certificate. In addition, we also congratulate Randall Wilson on his receipt of the Master Builder – Structures certificate. This puts him over the top – we are honored to announce that he will be awarded MMR #824. Great job!

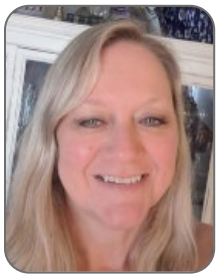
We have identified 2 main goals for the upcoming couple of years. First is to re-ignite the spark of the entire membership of TGD8, the largest division in the region. Second is to align the Division with the NMRA 2035 Vision which may require some organizational changes and some attention to adhering to the new NMRA identity guidelines. You will be seeing new Division logos in the very near future.

In order to spark the involvement, we are working on a Division wide event at the Rosenberg Railroad Museum on August 15 – mark your calendar. They have a large classroom where we will present a clinic or 2. There are 5 model Railroads on the property, including Gene Magnum's layout on which they are hoping to inaugurate operating sessions. We need to first get past the Regional and National conventions…

Upcoming ideas include an October meeting at Houston Area Live Steam at Zube park which was always well attended. Who can refuse a chance to ride or operate a Live Steam railroad? Several other group events are in the works including a make-and-take clinic.

If anyone has ANY ideas, thoughts or suggestions, PLEASE let me know, we can work together to keep the TGD on-track.

At-Large Director



by Deborah Gifford
gifforddeborah5@gmail.com

The 2026 LSR elections went off without much of a hiccup even after getting a bit of a late start, thanks to everyone that helped to make it happen especially Peter Kazmir.

With the LSR 2026 convention in the books and the new officers officially in place. I want to shout out to Doug Talyor and all the Cen-Tex Division for a great convention.

As we have now reached mid-year my mind goes to next years elections. As a reminder for 2027 the officers up for elections will be: President, Treasurer, and Divisions 1, 3, 5, and 7. To that end I need to have nominations and intent to run for office in time for the January LSR Board meeting.

I am hopeful that some added links with in the LSR site will help to streamline the process of running for office a bit.

Look forward to seeing everyone at the NMRA National convention.

At-Large Director

by Steve Crise
scrisephoto@gmail.com

I'm slowly getting the hang of my responsibilities as a Director at Large with an emphasis on photography.

At the LSR convention I created almost 250 individuals photos for the usage of the individual LSR division for their newsletter. Those files are available on the LSR Google Account for download.

I had a very informal but productive meeting with Ray Byer about updating the rules and entry requirements for future photo contests. We both felt that the current entry requirements were more than a bit outdated and that some of the categories needed to be revised, eliminated or better clarified and add or better define existing categories to eliminate some of the confusion beset by the old standards that were used when film and darkroom entries were more common. Our main objective is to clarify the rules and update the requirements to better suit the digital medium that now proliferates the contests, and to open up competition in categories that have been left out of the running. Ray and I have pledged to discuss these changes together and submit our proposal in the near future.

At-Large Director

by Don Winn, MMR
donswinn@gmail.com

We're still looking for venues in San Antonio and also New Braunfels to hold our 2028 LSR convention. We have yet to find anything within a reasonable budget. We are open to holding the convention separate from a hotel, which has worked fine for the Division 8 conventions and others like Temple.

If ANYONE has any specific recommendations for a meeting site, please let us know.

Thanks!

As a personal note, I have completed training to be an official Operation Lifesaver Approved Volunteer. Operation Lifesaver is a great program to educate the public about how to be safe around train tracks.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Winn, MMR

Achievement Program

by Duane Richardson, MMR
pinecreekstation@verizon.net

I would like to note that we have awarded 4 new MMR's in the past year. To date, the LSR has awarded 1,078 certificates and has 65 MMR's, 4 of whom hold all 11 certificates. In the 13 years that I have had the pleasure of being the LSR's AP chair, we have had 320 certificates and 19 MMR's.

Duane Richardson, MMR
LSR - AP Chair

Lone Star Region - AP Report

June 2025 to June 2026

FIRST_NAME	LAST_NAME	Division_NUM	Certificate	Cert-Date
Juan	Alvarez	1	Golden Spike	2/20/2026
Jim	Archer	1	Scenery	8/20/2025
Dan	Cook	1	Golden Spike	2/20/2026
Wyatt	Cook	1	Golden Spike	2/20/2026
Darrell	Cowles	1	Motive Power	8/20/2025
Darrell	Cowles	1	MMR	8/20/2025
Joe	Dumas	4	Golden Spike	11/20/2025
John	Garfield	1	Chief Dispatcher	8/20/2025
John	Garfield	1	Motive Power	8/20/2025
John	Garfield	1	MMR	8/20/2025
Tim	Giraud	4	Golden Spike	12/20/2025
Michael	Harang	3	Official	1/20/2026
Wayne	Jones	4	Volunteer	1/20/2026
David	Kranda	1	Chief Dispatcher	8/20/2025
Pete	Leach, MMR	8	Chief Dispatcher	9/20/2025
Greg	Luegering	8	Golden Spike	2/20/2026
Edward	McGinley	1	Scenery	8/20/2025
David	Paul	8	Chief Dispatcher	9/20/2025
David	Paul	8	Civil	9/20/2025
Eric	Smith	1	Golden Spike	10/20/2025
Jackobs	Steven	4	MMR	6/20/2025
Jackobs	Steven	4	Motive Power	6/20/2025
Jackobs	Steven	4	Scenery	6/20/2025
Jackobs	Steven	4	Cars	6/20/2025
Robert	Teliho	3	Golden Spike	1/20/2026
Robert	Teliho	3	Electrical	1/20/2026
Honn	Tudor	8	Golden Spike	12/20/2025
Randall	Wilson	8	Civil	5/20/2026
Randall	Wilson	8	MMR	5/20/2026
Don	Winn, MMR	6	Structures	3/20/2026

Certificates awarded since last years convention	30
Certificates awarded in 2025	32
Certificates awarded in 2026 (so far)	12

Contests

by Ray Byer and Jeff Palmer, MMR
raybyer@yahoo.com
res06wqv@gte.net

See Contest Report on Page 20

Conventions

by Joe Leising
joe@leising.com

The LSR Cen-Tex Division 4 has once again hosted another great convention this past June.

With twenty-eight fantastic clinicians presenting forty-seven informative clinics, interactive Non-Rail activities, free prototype tours, twenty layouts on the layout tour including three on-site layouts at the convention hotel and an entertaining Keynote speaker, plus operating sessions and the LSR contest room, the Connections 2026 Convention truly had something for everyone. Thank you to the Connections 2026 Convention Committee and everyone else that contributed their time and talents to create this successful event.

It is noteworthy that seven of the eight Lone Star Region divisions were represented at this year's convention, as well as individuals from at least three other regions from within the NMRA. Thank you to all for attending and supporting the LSR Cen-Tex Division and the Lone Star Region.

Preparations are taking place for the LSR's 2027 convention, the North Texas Express, to be held in Dallas (Richardson) on June 17–19, 2027. The general theme for the 2027 convention is Technology, embracing how advancements in manufacturing, electronics, 3D printing, etc. has enhanced the hobby of model railroading. This will be a wonderful opportunity to learn about the latest developments as our hobby progresses into the future. If you would like to present a clinic that ties into the theme of Technology, or any other topic, contact Jeff Rykiel, Convention Chairman, at Jeff_Rykiel@yahoo.com. There are still a few openings for Convention Committee members as well as volunteers; contact Jeff if interested, and remember to log your time towards the Achievement Program.

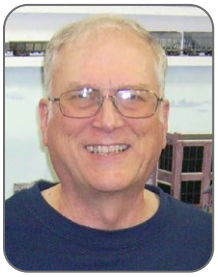
The South Texas Division is seeking a location to host the 2028 convention that offers the necessary meeting space at a reasonable price. If you have any suggestions for a possible venue in the greater San Antonio area, please contact Don Winn at DonSWinn@gmail.com or myself at Joe@Leising.com.

Including this year's convention, we have six of the eight LSR Divisions participating in the rotation to host our annual convention. They are:

- 2026: Cen-Tex Division, Austin, Texas
- 2027: Trinity River Division, Richardson (Dallas), Texas
- 2028: South Texas Division, San Antonio, Texas
- 2029: Cowcatcher Division, Fort Worth, Texas
- 2030: Texas Gulf Division, Pasadena (Houston), Texas
- 2031: Bayou Division, New Orleans, Louisiana

Thank you to everyone that has participated and will participate in these annual conventions, supporting both the local host groups and the Lone Star Region.

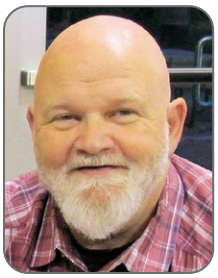
Education



by Robert Mangrum, MMR
1txsouthrr@gmail.com

No Report Received

Events



by Bill Dryden
bdr149@airmail.net

Not a lot of change to report. This past year has basically been the same as last report.

Remember, folks, I rely on YOU to keep me informed; I will make concerted attempts to get your information correct. I prepare the *Up the Tracks* column from what has been passed on to me from the various Divisions and clubs within the LSR. If your Division blurb (or one of a club's within your Division) has incorrect information or needs updating, please pass that information on to me so I can update the information correctly. And, if your club/organization has a web page, I will typically drop by to see if I spot anything new or different from my previous information.

I'm still somewhat "fighting" the research part; several of the "old standby" sources have dropped off-line, but a couple of new sources have emerged. I typically will visit the web

site for each published event to ensure that the site is still active and provides the reader with needed information concerning the respective show.

Overall, I believe I am keeping up with the known events within our Region. ALL submittals, additions or corrections are greatly appreciated. Anyone who has events and/or corrections to be published, please send me the details: bdr149@airmail.net.

A reminder to all: Please consider our deadlines for submittals and publications to allow adequate lead time to correctly announce your event. Column submission deadlines are the 15th of February, May, August and November; publication of the Marker Lamp is the following month.

Respectfully,
Bill Dryden

Membership

by Jared Roberts
jlroberts0418@gmail.com

One decreased member this recently and no rerails. Kudos to region 8 for growing so far this year!

The feedback I am getting from reaching out to 60 days expired is now pretty minimal. Most people just feel the cost is too high for perceived benefits they are receiving. People consistently tell me the cost of NMRA compared to other hobby national clubs is too high.

Youth

by Don Winn, MMR
donswinn@gmail.com

It's only mid-year, but it is not too early to nominate an enthusiastic youth for our annual Youth Award. Please contact me with any nominations you might have for your division.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Winn, MMR **ML**

Membership Report

	2025							2026					
Division	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**
One	158	157	154	151	150	145	141	139	138	135	137	135	135
Two	83	84	83	84	83	83	72	77	77	78	77	76	75
Three	169	167	168	166	163	163	156	155	154	154	154	153	152
Four	130	130	131	129	129	126	124	123	122	127	124	122	116
Five	27	28	28	26	27	26	25	24	23	22	23	22	19
Six	74	74	72	73	73	70	69	70	71	71	72	70	70
Seven	23	23	23	23	23	23	22	21	20	20	20	20	19
Eight	195	189	190	191	189	186	182	182	184	193	192	195	193
LSR Total	859	852	849	843	837	822	791	791	789	800	799	793	779

GET OUT THE WORD!

Color

Ads Available

Raise awareness for your business, model railroad, club or event while supporting the Lone Star Region by placing an ad in the Marker Lamp.

- Want to let everyone know about your latest product?
- Looking to build membership in your club?
- Want to attract model railroaders to your show?
- Do you have a special feature or crack express train on your layout?

Let everyone know about it with a color ad!

100% NMRA clubs and LSR divisions receive a $30 discount - the equivalent of a free half-page ad!

Ad prices per year (four issues):

- Full page: $50
- Half page: $30 (horizontal or vertical)
- Quarter page: $15
- Pike ads (~1/8 page): $8

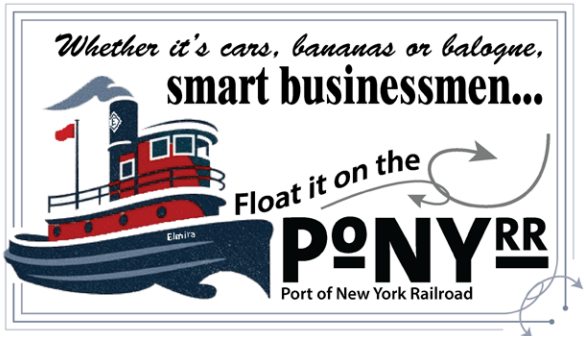
For more information or to submit an ad, contact:

Steve Sandifer
steve.sandifer@sbcglobal.net

Pike Ads

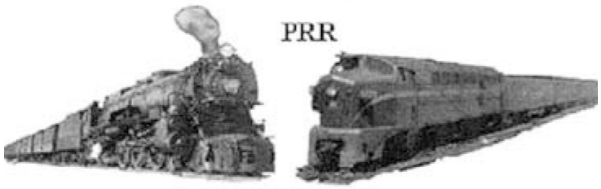
ACME & MINERAL CITY RAILROAD

Bill Dryden
469-964-8571
Georgetown, Texas
bdlr149@airmail.net
Life Member NMRA & LSR



Riley Triggs | ponyrr.blogspot.com

THE ALLEGHENY RAILROAD
HORSESHOE CURVE
ALTOONA



Jerry Schoenberg
Carrollton, Texas (972) 242-9053
arrjerry@aol.com

Pennsylvania Railroad
Laurel Valley Secondary

Pittsburgh Division Circa 1957
Brady McGuire, Sherman, Texas
903-820-9420
Southwestern Pennsylvania in Texas O Scale

BC&G
BAYOU CITY & GULF RAILROAD

New Members & Visitors Welcome!
How-to Clinics - Operating Sessions - Family Activities
N'Crowd Model Railroad Society
4007-E Bellaire Blvd., Houston, Texas
www.houstonNcrowd.org

Texas Western Model Railroad Club
6808 Forest Hill Drive, Forest Hill, TX 76140 (682) 587-2092

TEXAS WESTERN MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

Membership is Open!
Visitors Welcome, See **twmrc.org** for Days/Times
Follow us on Facebook @texaswesternmodelrailroadclub

There's plenty of room for more - add your pike today!

The Marker Lamp

Submission deadline for next issue is August 31